



No 61,505

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Night must fall... and what goes on when it does? Tomorrow, Modern Times talks, bleary-eyed, to the people who come alive as the rest of the nation goes to sleep.

On the books page: Bryan Appleyard reviews Buckminster Fuller's recipe for world salvation, Richard Holmes finds a new conservative streak in Tom Wolfe and Mary Cosh reports on a "stunning" recreation of the last days of Oscar Wilde.

Strike ends as BSC retreat

Striking steel workers in South Yorkshire were told to go back to work by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation after the British Steel Corporation backed down on the imposition of redundancies and new shift arrangements.

US owns 50pc of Sotheby's

Sotheby's, the London-based fine art auctioneers at the centre of a \$60m takeover battle, is now believed to be more than 50 per cent owned by American interests.

Reagan appeal

President Reagan asked Morocco to mediate between the PLO and Jordan after they failed to agree on a common approach to Middle East peace, senior Arab diplomats said in Rabat.

Phone box loss

Nearly 17,000 of Britain's 77,000 public telephone boxes will disappear if British Telecom is sold to private investors, Mr Alan Tuffin, general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers, claimed.

Back to Siberia

Six Pentecostals left the American embassy in Moscow, where they have been for nearly five years, to return to Siberia in the hope that the Soviet authorities will let them emigrate.

Gold fraud trial

A key figure allegedly involved in a £2m VAT gold fraud used a false name and "totally vanished", a court was told.

Walesa meeting

Mr Lech Walesa, who held a three-day conference with underground Solidarity leaders to "coordinate the position" of the banned Polish free trade union, according to a communiqué read by his wife.

Banker's call

Agencies like the International Monetary Fund and World Bank should play a bigger role in channelling international capital flows, Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, said.

Flood alerts

Shipping on the Rhine and Mosel rivers was halted and disaster alerts were declared in the cities of Bonn, Cologne and Trier as flooding spread through south-western Germany.

Rare Master

Severiano Ballesteros adopted a rare conservative approach in winning the Masters golf tournament for the second time at Augusta, Georgia.

Leader page, 11 Letters: On post-coital pill, from Professor Glanville Williams, QC; Cambodian refugees, from Mr M Barber and others; Third World aid, from Mr H Murray.

Leading articles: Gibraltar, Controller and Auditor General, European security policy. Features, pages 8-10 Bernard Levin asks how many women should be in the mother of parliaments; More blood on the black spots in South Africa; What the Ghandi Oscars mean to the British film industry; Spectrum: British arts bite the Big Apple. Wednesday Page: Depo-Provera - a drug on trial.

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Interest rate set to reach 10pc this week

Expectations of lower interest rates, lower inflation are pushing rates down. Higher productivity and moderate pay increases, rather than a lower pound, are the only lasting answer to Britain's industrial problems, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, told Westminster Chamber of Commerce. United States money supply growth and inflation are likely to be less than expected with bank base rates being cut by a half over the next few months, according to point to 10 per cent. Firmer sterling and Volcker, US Federal Reserve chairman.

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Frances Williams

Bank base rates are virtually certain to fall this week from 10 1/2 to 10 per cent after yesterday's performance in the markets. Share prices hit new records and sterling rose strongly against leading currencies.

The City is convinced that the clearing banks will cut base rates by the end of the week, despite tough action taken by the Bank of England to prevent rates falling too far too fast.

The FT Index of 30 leading shares closed at a record 687.7 yesterday - up 3.8 points on the day. The market has been racing ahead because of the trend towards lower interest rates. At one stage it was up 6.6 points but a big £7.2m share issue from GKN, one of the country's leading engineering companies, took some of the steam out of the rise.

The pound has staged a dramatic recovery as fears of an oil price war have receded. It was in demand again yesterday, adding to the big gains of the previous day.

Hopes of an early election leading to a Conservative victory have also helped and the pound closed up 1.45 cents against the dollar at \$1.5415, the highest closing level for nearly two months.

It is thought that monetary policy could be thrown off course if interest rates fall rapidly and there is also concern that sterling could come under pressure again in the future despite its recent firmness.

One factor which could upset sterling is rising American interest rates. Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, the country's central bank, warned Congress yesterday that interest rates were too high to sustain a long-term recovery.

In London, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, hammered home to a gathering of businessmen his message that the easy option of a depreciating currency was not the route to lasting improvements in industrial competitiveness.

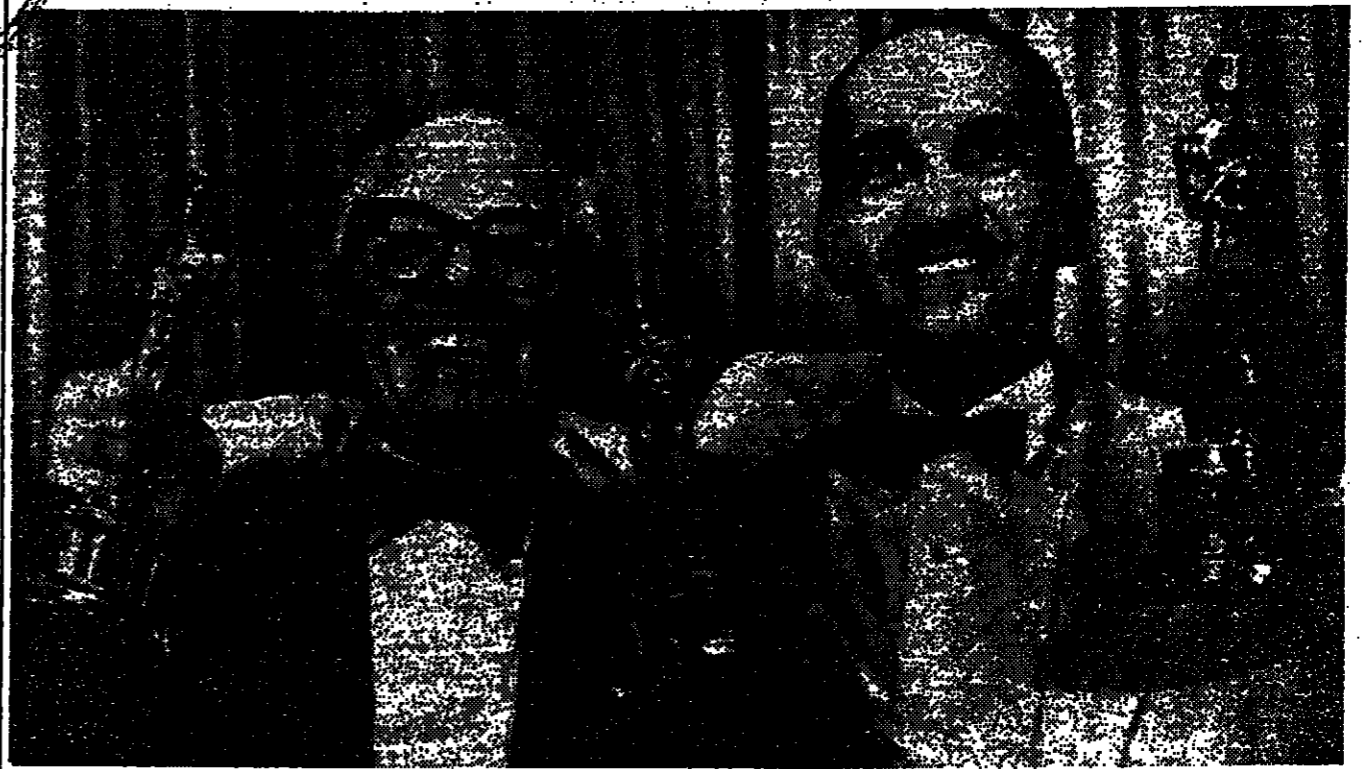
He said faster economic growth depended on improving competitiveness through lower pay deals, productivity gains, or better product quality and performance, which did not raise the cost of imports or inflation.

A cut in base rates would help to head off the danger of a rise in the mortgage rate which some building societies believe is necessary with bank rates at their present level.

However, once base rates fall by half a percentage point from existing levels of 10 1/2 per cent, the authorities are likely to be reluctant to see any further falls for a while.

Business News, page 13

Climax of a magnificent obsession



Success at last: Sir Richard Attenborough and Ben Kingsley with their awards last night.

Eight-Oscar 'Gandhi' triumphs in Hollywood

From Iver Davis Hollywood

Sir Richard Attenborough's 20-year magnificent obsession, his film 'Gandhi', last night monopolized the 55th Academy Awards ceremony in Hollywood by winning eight Oscars - more than any other British film in Academy history.

'Gandhi' won the plauds for best picture, best director and best actor (Ben Kingsley). A jubilant Sir Richard, who had already pocketed most of the other main film awards in the last few months, said that 'Gandhi's' victory was a triumph for the once-all-British film industry.

'Gandhi' was the first British film to win an Oscar since 'Chariots of Fire' last year, which was simply not another flash in the pan.

He said: "No British film in history has ever won this number of Oscars - not 'Lawrence of Arabia', not 'Bridge on the River Kwai' nor 'Oliver'."

Surrounded by a tableful of gold statuettes, Sir Richard said wryly: "Nobody believed in the story of a little brown man dressed in a sheet carrying a bean pole."

Indeed, as has already been much chronicled, Sir Richard fought for two decades for the privilege of bringing the life story of Mahatma Gandhi to the screen, even though financial doors were slammed in his face. He finally got his funds from British, Indian and Canadian sources.

Not content with the "cream" awards, 'Gandhi' also collected Oscars for costume, art direction, cinematography, editing and screenplay.

It completely overran all opposition including the American box office sensation 'E.T.', which has so far taken \$30m at the box office. Steven Spielberg's fable about the endearing creature from outer space won four Oscars, all in the technical category.

As expected, Meryl Streep won best actress award for her role as the beautiful concentration camp victim in the screen version of William Styron's best-selling novel 'Sophie's Choice'.

It was a triumphant evening. Continued on back page, col 3

Spain gets tougher on Rock visit

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Señor Fernando Morán, the Spanish Foreign Minister, yesterday told the British Ambassador of his "concern and dismay" over today's scheduled visit by ships of the Royal Navy to Gibraltar.

It was the second time Sir Richard Parsons, the Ambassador, had heard the contents of an official Spanish Note made public on Monday night. He had already visited the Foreign Ministry on Saturday, when it was read to him by a senior official. The Foreign Ministry's chief spokesman had made a mistake reporting on Spanish television on Monday night that the envoy had been summoned earlier in the day.

Sir Richard was understood to have emphasized the routine nature of the call by a fleet of 12 ships, headed by the aircraft carrier Invincible. Similar visits had occurred in previous years when ships were returning from spring exercises in the eastern Atlantic.

The Ministry of Defence spokesman said that 'Spring Train' was very much a deep-water naval exercise, not one designed to test Gibraltar defences. This had always been the case, he added.

No landings or exercises on the Rock were taking place or had even been planned. The ministry had been in contact with troops stationed in Gibraltar to check that not even a local operation had been designed to coincide with Spring Train.

One possible reason for this year's display of Spanish umbrage is that the Madrid Government had been looking for a good excuse to delay implementation of the Lisbon Agreement, under which the frontier between Gibraltar and Spain would be fully reopened and normal relations restored.

General Leopoldo Galtieri, the former Argentine President, faces 60 days' detention in a military prison, and will stand trial before an Army court of honour which could bring further charges against him. Military sources have disclosed.

The decision was taken late on Monday night by General Cristino Nicolaides, the Army commander. Under Army regulations retired officers must seek the permission of the commander before making any political statements.

General Galtieri had broken this rule in an interview published by the newspaper 'Clarín' on April 2. General Nicolaides imposed the maximum sentence possible for this breach of discipline.

In the interview, General Galtieri criticized General Marion Menéndez, the former military governor of the Falkland Islands. He also attacked three senior active service generals who, he said, led the coup against him in June last year. He claimed they acted in a dishonourable fashion.

The three are General Lisamil Reston (Interior Minister), General Edgardo Calvi (Chief of the Army General Staff) and General Horacio Varela Ortiz (Director of Fabricaciones Militares, the Army's military-industrial complex).

Statements made by the former President in the interview also offended other senior officers, the Catholic church and Señor Carlos Ortiz de Rosas, the former Argentine Ambassador to Britain.

At least four officers demanded a court of honour to question General Galtieri's Continued on back page, col 1

Galtieri gets 60-day sentence for indiscipline

From Andrew Thompson Buenos Aires

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Cousin of Aitken is TV-am chief

By Kenneth Gosling

Mr Jonathan Aitken, MP, who replaced Mr Peter Jay as chief executive of TV-am, the breakfast television station, a month ago this week, hands over the post to his cousin, Mr Timothy Aitken, from tomorrow.

The appointment will last, according to TV-am, for at least a year, as will the appointment of Mr Roger Frye to the new post of financial director. Both have been approved by the Independent Broadcasting Authority. During their tenure of office with TV-am, Mr Timothy Aitken and Mr Frye will relinquish their positions with Aitken Hume, the financial services company and the major institutional shareholder in TV-am. Mr Timothy Aitken is that company's chief executive and his cousin Jonathan is chairman. Mr Frye is the financial controller.

The announcement was made on the day the latest breakfast television ratings were announced by the Broadcasters' Audience Research Board (BARB). These showed no further drop in the TV-am audience from 400,000. But the Saturday figure is down from 1,600,000 to 1,100,000, with Sunday creeping up from 300,000 to 500,000.

BBC television 'Breakfast Time' show showed a fall in its average weekday viewing figure from 1,800,000 to 1,300,000.

TV-am's statement on the executive changes was given to the station's staff yesterday afternoon. Mr Jonathan Aitken, whose appointment, though temporary, was controversial, will remain an executive director. His cousin Timothy, aged 38, a grandson of Lord Beaverbrook, and Mr Frye join the TV-am board.

Mr Jay, who had been chairman as well as chief executive of TV-am, and is now president had no comment; but the man who took over as chairman, Lord Marsh, said: "I am absolutely delighted with these appointments and grateful to Timothy Aitken for taking what was for him a difficult decision."

NCB's £115m loss threatens pits

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board lost £115m last year and faces a further substantial drop in UK consumption that is likely to accelerate pit closures.

Leaders of the three mining unions were given a gloomy forecast of the industry's fortunes yesterday at the first top-level consultative meeting attended by Mr Arthur Scargill, left-wing president of the National Union of Mineworkers, since he took office more than a year ago.

Mr Scargill said afterwards: "Whenever the coal board make a statement or present statistics they confirm the view that I have expressed and the union has expressed that the coal board will seek further pit closures at a more rapid rate than hitherto. Only eight pits, closed in the last financial year, and two were merged."

The inescapable conclusion of these figures is that the coal board will seek further pit closures at a more rapid rate than hitherto. Only eight pits, closed in the last financial year, and two were merged.

Ironically, the miners are working harder while the market for their product shrinks. In the last quarter of the financial year productivity was up by 4 to 5 per cent.

The management is scaling down its overall sales prospects for 1983-84 to 116 million tonnes, of which 104 million tonnes would come from deep-mined sources and the rest from opencast sites.

Pressure mounts in war widows campaign

By Michael Horsnell

A campaign for Government assistance to enable Second World War widows to visit the overseas graves of their husbands gathered momentum yesterday in the wake of the Falklands pilgrimage by next-of-kin.

Baroness Jeger tabled a question in the House of Lords asking the Government to reconsider its refusal to help widows who have never been able to pay their last respects.

British War Widows and Associates, the organization which has been campaigning for free travel for next-of-kin, is also to ask Sir John King, chairman of British Airways, who arranged free flights to the south Atlantic for the Falklands bereaved, to give his support.

The Government stands by the arrangements introduced in 1967 which allow - though not retrospectively - next-of-kin and a companion to travel free to visit the grave of a serviceman buried overseas within two years of the burial. It was under this arrangement that the Falklands visit went ahead.

After the Second World War some financial assistance was given to relatives to visit cemeteries in Europe.

Putting your feet up with fish and chips

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

If fish and chips, bread and butter and a cup of tea is your idea of a good meal, then you can afford to put your feet up in the autumn of 1978.

Families buying their own home have done rather better. It took only three-quarters of an hour extra work a week to pay the mortgage in April 1982, than in October, 1978. Since then, payments have come down sharply as the mortgage rate has fallen.

But supporting a mortgage still involves three times more effort than renting from the council. The typical worker has to put in nearly 18 hours a week, nearly half his average working week, for the privilege of home ownership. Cod and tea require less work

Number of minutes needed to earn, after tax, the price of:

	Oct 1978	April 1982
3lb beef steak	208	220
2lb cod fillet	75	65
14lb potatoes	23	41
4lb best 2 pints milk	10	10 1/2
5 gals 4-star petrol	151	225
weekly season ticket (Surrey/London)	227	268
20 cigarettes	22	27
pint of bitter	16	16

to pay for them than four years ago, the Treasury estimates. Half a pound of tea costs 14 minutes, 4 minutes less than in 1978, while 2lb of cod fillet is 10 minutes cheaper at 1 hour 5 minutes. A large white sliced loaf costs 10 1/2 minutes, the same as in 1978.

Tory MP fights to block rival

By Julian Harland Political Editor

Sir Anthony Meyer, Conservative MP for Flint, West, who is in conflict with a member of the European Parliament, Miss Beata Brookes, for the new seat of Clwyd North-west, yesterday accused party officers of using procedural delays to protect his rival.

Sir Anthony, whose present seat will disappear under boundary changes, was beaten by Miss Brookes, MEP for North Wales, at the initial selection conference for the new seat. But Miss Brookes's selection is subject to endorsement by the full paid-up membership of the new constituency association, which is yet to hold its inaugural meeting.

At that meeting Sir Anthony, who has complained of irregularities in Miss Brookes's nomination, hopes to block her candidature and secure a fresh selection. He has the support of Mr Geraint Morgan, MP for Denbigh, whose seat also disappears and who was also beaten initially by Miss Brookes.

Sir Anthony, who with his wife spent part of the Easter recess campaigning in the new seat, said yesterday that out of 100 party workers he had met only eight who supported Miss Brookes, whom he described as "the only Conservative candidate who could lose the seat to the Liberals."

He said the inaugural-meeting of the association was being held "back" because of the prospect of an election in June. "My opponents hope the meeting will be in the middle of an election campaign, too late to challenge Miss Brookes and Continued on page 2 col 5

GOOD GOD, JEREMY, SOME BOUNDER HAS JUST NUKED OUR FOX!

Huntin' Shootin' and Bombin'

Punch

Take a different look at life

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

مركزاً من لاهل

'Invisible mastermind' behind £2m gold fraud plot, QC says

An invisible man was a key figure in a £2m gold fraud conspiracy, Southwark Crown Court, in London, was told yesterday. The plot relied on a front man trading under a false name who "totally vanished", Mr Paul Purnell, QC, for the prosecution, said.

The man took considerable risks for a group set to make millions by not paying value-added tax on gold it had sold on the London gold market, Mr Purnell said. Eight men have denied conspiracy to defraud the Customs and Excise of VAT between November, 1981, and March, 1982.

"The scale of the operation was immense. The defendants manipulated the particular VAT exemptions on some gold coins to make a substantial amount of money dishonestly and defraud the customs of more than £2m in tax money", Mr Purnell said.

The group bought more than 75,000 gold coins, mainly Canadian maple leaf and kangaroo, on which VAT was not charged. The coins were melted and sold as pure gold, on which 15 per cent VAT was charged, but never paid.

"It must have been painful for anyone in the jewelry trade to reduce works of some value to lumps of metal. It does not make sense at first."

"But the root of this fraud is to melt the coin into scrap and pass it down the line pretending VAT has been paid on it, while in fact the 15 per cent has gone into the pockets of the people who are perpetrating the fraud", Mr Purnell said.

The group set up two front men as traders at the end of the line. But as the operation was finishing and customs men looked for them to claim the VAT "one was not there".

The customs men who had carried out surveillance on the group, found his bank accounts had been terminated and his premises vacated. "He had even changed his appearance radically and, in a real sense, he had disappeared."

But the second front man, trading under another name, was put in by the group after the first man had vanished. So his process of disappearing was not quite complete, Mr Purnell said.

"Like the Chestnut cat in *Alice in Wonderland*, the smile still remained."

The two front men were named by Mr Purnell as Ronald Evans, aged 42, of Myddleton Square, London, and Peter Burgess, aged 44, of Redburn Road, Richmond. Mr Evans, he said, traded under the name of Roberts and Mr Burgess under Jennings.

Counsel alleged that one of the masterminds behind the fraud was Charles Wilson, aged 51, of Cranford Way, Twickenham, south-west London.

Two other men, not in the dock, were also "in the top league of the fraud", Mr Purnell said. They had disappeared.

He named them as Daniel Redman, who "took advantage of a massive part of the proceeds", and Mr Raj, "the financier who gained a considerable amount of the dishonest proceeds". Then, Mr Purnell said, came Roy James, aged 47, of Highfield Road, Purley, south London.

There were four other men Mr Purnell said: Gavin Dias, aged 26, of Newbury Park, Ilford; Ronald Lampart, aged 46, of Canterbury Avenue, Ilford; Andrew Daniels, aged 28, of Harris Close, Holwhites Hill, Enfield, and Wayne Myers, aged 28, of Woodcock Hill, Kenyon, Harrow, all trading under illuminate limited, with premises in Hatton Garden.

"We were concerned in the manufacture and sale of gold jewelry. Together with Mr James they used their skills and company as a means by which the fraud could be carried out, for 1 per cent of the turnover."

The hearing continues today.



Mr Roche reunited with his wife on the return of the Baltic Ferry (inset). Photographs: Bill Warhurst.

Return of a Falklands veteran

Antony Roche, aged 43, a motorman in the Townsend Thoresen ship Baltic Ferry, was entitled to smile when he disembarked at Felixstowe yesterday (Rupert Morris writes). As he embraced his wife he was able not only to pride himself on having served on board Britain's longest continuously serving ship in the Falklands, the

Baltic Ferry has been in action there since it was requisitioned in Felixstowe on May 1 last year, but also to look forward to relaxing on leave until September, 1984.

Under the terms of the agreement reached between the National Union of Seamen and the Ministry of Defence, he is entitled to a day off for

every day worked, together with an annual leave entitlement of 82 days. He said that he and his wife, who live in Keyham, Plymouth, would have a holiday in America.

The Baltic Ferry saw action when unloading supplies in San Carlos Water, and was buffeted by storms on the way home.

Automatic dialling car phone

A car radiophone service which will allow drivers to dial automatically a telephone number without waiting for an operator is to be launched tomorrow, initially in the south-east, by British Telecom.

The rest of Britain will be offered the service by the end of the year. Drivers will be routed directly to any of Britain's homes which have a telephone or connected to the international direct dialling services of more than 125 countries. The telephone will cost about £2,000, and more than £100 a quarter to rent.

New rail union elects leader

Mr Colin Coley, aged 43, a guard at New Street station, Birmingham, was elected chairman of the newly formed Federation of Professional Railway Staff at Derby yesterday. The federation was formed by disaffected members of the National Union of Railwaymen and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef), after last year's strikes.

The federation becomes an unlisted union today. Although it is still seeking certification it will start paying benefits on May 1. The federation has 750 members.

Festival tower plan dropped

A plan to build a futuristic £400,000 observation tower at the Liverpool International Garden Festival is to be abandoned.

Construction difficulties and a tight schedule mean that it will not feature in a £13.8m conversion of derelict dockland into parkland and gardens for the 1984 festival.

Surgeon seeks to appeal

Paul Vickers, aged 48, the surgeon jailed for life for murdering his wife with a course of anti-cancer drug tablets, is seeking leave to appeal against his conviction in the Court of Appeal in London next Monday.

It was recommended that Vickers, of Moor Crescent, Gosforth, Tyne and Wear, should serve at least 17 years after his conviction at Teesside Crown Court in November, 1981.

Corbett ill

Ronnie Corbett, the comedian, has a virus infection, causing the cancellation of *The Two Ronnies* show at the London Palladium last night and tonight. But the presenters said yesterday they hoped Mr Corbett would be fit enough to resume with his partner, Ronnie Barker, tomorrow.

Bishops to hear plea for group confession

An international meeting of bishops in Rome in the autumn is likely to hear an urgent appeal on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales for permission to administer the sacrament of penance, commonly called confession, to large groups of people without the private recital of sins to a priest.

The Vatican has more than once refused such permission, although the bishops of England and Wales have been convinced for some time that group confession holds an answer to the decline in this sacrament, which has alarmed them.

Saturday morning queues of people waiting their turn in the confession box were once a routine feature of church life, but they have dwindled to almost nothing.

The Roman Catholic Episcopal Conference of England and Wales is meeting to prepare its contribution to the Synod of Bishops, whose theme is reconciliation.

That is the name by which the sacrament is sometimes known. It offers the bishops an opportunity to put their case to the church at large, in the hope that if church leaders from other countries support them, the Pope might authorize a change in policy.

The form of sacrament which can be administered en masse is called "general absolution". A rite for it is officially authorized, but the conditions attached restrict it to certain circumstances.

Those taking part in such a service are deemed to have received sacramental absolution, just as in the more traditional private confession, and it is an implied condition that they should call to mind their sins and be sorry for them.

The Vatican stepped in when English Roman Catholic priests first started using general absolution and ruled that it had to be reserved for exceptional circumstances. The example usually cited is for a unit of soldiers about to go into battle.

In some parts of England bishops have made known that priests can still use their private judgment and could, on certain occasions, such as a large congregation or a special service in Lent, as constituting "exceptional pastoral need".

Priests often report remarkable results from such occasions and claim that many people return to the traditional practice of regular private confession as a result.

Opinions vary as to why the use of private confession has fallen away and why general absolution seems to be so successful when it has been used. The phenomenon has been linked to the issue of contraception, which is said to have persuaded many married Roman Catholics to avoid the confession box.

Mob incited to riot, court told

A man and two youths tried to organize a rioting mob to stage a concerted attack on the police during a night of "appalling violence" on a Liverpool housing estate, a court was told yesterday.

The three shouted and urged on youngsters in a courtyard in Sir Thomas White Gardens, Everton, as the police were pelted with missiles, it was stated at Liverpool Crown Court.

When the police finally arrested the three by using a sledgehammer to smash into their barricaded third-floor flat and vantage point, the night's troubles soon ended, Mr Jack Cowan, for the prosecution, said.

Patrick Chioochi, aged 45, and Patrick Chioochi Jr, aged 17, both of Sir Thomas White Gardens, and a youth aged 16, have all pleaded not guilty to inciting, assisting or abetting riotously to assault Merseyside police officers on August 4 last. They also deny two charges of fighting and making an affray.

Mr Cowan said trouble began shortly before 11pm on August 3. "Broadly speaking, police officers who were on duty in the area came under attack from a number of youths throwing stones and various objects at them. The officers had to withdraw from Sir Thomas White Gardens until more officers came to assist them."

"The time came when a number of officers tried to get in because a barricade had been laid to prevent police and people trying to assist them from getting into that area."

Mr Cowan said that while some people threw objects at the officers, others were encouraging them and shouting abuse from balconies around the courtyards of the flats.

The people on the balconies included the three defendants, he added. During a full in the disturbance police withdrew without attempting to arrest the three, but about 2am trouble flared again.

Mr Cowan said: "The police officers again came under attack from a number of youths within Sir Thomas White Gardens, this time assisted by these three defendants, throwing objects at police officers rather as others beat on violence were doing, but additionally actually inciting these persons to riot."

The three were encouraging the mob to form a cohesive group to lead a full attack against the police.

Police eventually managed to get to the third floor flat, where they found the door closed and "blocked in such a way that ordinary physical force would not move it and an officer had to use a sledgehammer."

Mr Cowan said that "appalling violence" took place, but within a very short time of "these three inciters of the mob" being arrested the area quietened down.

The trial continues today.

'Gandhi' triumph cited £30m fund sought to boost films

A £30m aid fund to secure the future of the British film industry, raised through a tax on cinema admission and video, television and cable film sales, was urged on the Government yesterday, by the newly Directors Guild of Great Britain.

While the celebrations continued in Hollywood after the triumph of the British film *Gandhi*, winner of eight Oscars, representatives of the guild, led by Mr Piers Haggard, its chairman, met Mr Ian Sproat, Under-Secretary for Trade to emphasize the need for more finance to help British filmmakers.

The guild, whose members include Sir Richard Attenborough, director of *Gandhi*, leading directors in films, the theatre and radio and television, was able to back its appeal by illustrating the talent in Britain that had recently produced not only *Gandhi*, but also *Nicholas Nickleby* in the theatre, the award winning film *Chariots of Fire* and the television successes, *Brideshead*

going to film makers in proportion to their success.

In its submission to the Government, which is reviewing the future of the levy, the Guild argues that none of the money raised should be allocated on an automatic basis to producers "as a reward for the theatrical success of their films".

It wants the money, coming from cinema admissions, video-cassettes and video-recorder manufacture and import, and television networks, cable or satellite systems showing feature films to be used principally to finance an expanded, and considerably restructured, National Film Finance Corporation.

Part of the money should be used for the refurbishment and improvement of old cinemas. Acknowledging recent successes, the guild concluded: "Indigenous British film production has undergone a modest revival in recent months, but it would be foolish to consider this as an indication that we now have a healthy and fully fledged industry."

"It is clear that if the finance were more readily available Britain could become a major provider of films for international markets. It is absurd that we are not exploiting the opportunities open to us."

The guild wants the system known as the Eady levy, a tax on cinema admissions, to be brought up to date and used to raise £30m to £50m a year to help the industry.

Last year the levy brought in £4m of which £1.5m went to the National Film Finance Corporation, £400,000 to the National Film and Television School, and £125,000 to the British Film Institute, with the balance

Police work 'thwarted by teachers'

Small groups of teachers ill disposed towards the police have on occasion manipulated their colleagues to produce a breakdown in police liaison with schools, a report by the Inspectors of Schools said yesterday.

The inspectors reported incidents where a police operation involving young people "enabled a small group of teachers to capitalize upon the general unease among teachers that the particular incident has generated."

The inspectors' code of practice forbids them from naming particular schools or local authority areas, but they certainly have in mind incidents in racially mixed Hackney, east London. Militant teachers there have on several occasions "blacked" all contact with the Metropolitan Police.

The inspectors' report implies that such incidents are rare. *Police Liaison with the Education Service* (Department of Education and Science, Publications Dispatch Centre, Honeypot Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 1AZ, free).

Disc jockey tells court of threats

Mr Noel Edmonds, the disc jockey, told a court yesterday that he had received a telephone call in which a man threatened to break him, wreck his home and destroy him professionally.

He said he believed that the man was Basil Wainwright, who was accused at Worcester Crown Court of dishonestly obtaining more than £40,000 from him.

Mr Edmonds described the threats on the second day of the trial in which Mr Wainwright, aged 48, of Yardley Wood, Birmingham, denies a total of 22 charges, including nine of theft.

The court was told on Monday that Mr Edmonds had paid £70,000 into a firm called Crescenda Ltd of Redditch, Hereford and Worcester. It was set up by Mr Wainwright and Mr Edmonds to develop a hydro-wing power-boat called Excaltur, in which Mr Edmonds hoped to beat the world water speed record. The court was told that all Mr Edmonds got for his money was a miniature model of the boat.

Mr Edmonds said yesterday that he became suspicious of how his money was being used, in July 1981. He then confronted Mr Wainwright in front of television cameras at the Redditch factory. A few days later he received the threatening telephone call.

Sheriff Cuff, aged 29, of Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, Mr Wainwright's former secretary, has also pleaded not guilty to 10 charges.

The trial continues today.

Loss of 17,000 phone boxes predicted

Britain will lose nearly 17,000 of its 77,000 public telephone boxes if British Telecom is sold off to private investors, a union forecast yesterday.

They would never be replaced, Mr Alan Tuffin, general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers, one of the biggest of British Telecom's six unions, said after a survey carried out in all the union's areas.

But while British Telecom agreed on the figure given by the union of financial losses sustained by the service, nearly £77m last year, it queried specific figures of the disappearance of kiosks.

It pointed out that after privatization British Telecom will still be required to continue the kiosk service, which was first introduced in Britain in the form of "wooden greenhouses" at the beginning of the century.

The union's calculations also exclude 300,000 boxes not located outdoors or in railway stations, airports and other public places.

Mr Tuffin said that areas such as Devon, Cornwall and



Mr Alan Tuffin

the Lake District would be badly affected.

Industrial action by the Post Office Engineering Union in opposition to the Government's plan to privatize British Telecom was stepped up yesterday when it withdrew members employed on the maintenance of the Whitehall telephone system. The 35 members involved maintain the Government's own telephone exchange which serves all the principal Whitehall buildings.

Lecturer's win against Law Society

Mr Francis Reynolds, the law lecturer who changed his name to Mr Whatismans in his fight to break the solicitors' conveying monopoly, won a small victory yesterday in his continuing fight against the Law Society.

Mr Reynolds, aged 49, is contesting the Bill of Costs for nearly £2,000 he incurred after losing his appeal in 1980 against conviction on charges of preparing conveying documents as an unqualified person under the Solicitors Act, 1974.

He claimed that his bills were drawn up by a clerk in the Law Society's firm of

solicitors, and not a qualified solicitor, and that thereby the Law Society had indirectly breached the same Act under which he himself was convicted.

Yesterday Lord Justice Goff and Mr Justice Mann in the High Court held that a City of London magistrate, Mr D B Harrison, was wrong to refuse Mr Reynolds leave to issue a summons against the clerk, Mr John Searle, of Richards, Butler & Company, solicitors.

Giving judgment after the one-hour hearing in which Mr Reynolds, representing him-

self, sought judicial review of the magistrate's decision. Lord Justice Goff said it seemed that the magistrate reached his decision on the basis that there was no substance in the summons, "in other words, it was frivolous."

"I am not holding out any hope that in the outcome Mr Reynolds will prove to be right, but in my judgment Mr Harrison erred in law in saying there was absolutely no substance to this point."

The court therefore quashed the magistrate's refusal and directed that leave be granted for the summons to be issued.

But it rejected Mr Reynolds's claim that the decision had been biased. He had argued that there had been a breach of natural justice because, first, both the magistrates and his clerk were solicitors; second, the clerk stayed in the room when the magistrate made his decision; and third, there were two other magistrates in the room.

Afterwards Mr Reynolds, a Birmingham Polytechnic lecturer who first took on the Law Society nearly ten years ago, said he would be bringing the prosecution himself. "I am rather pleased. This is the bitter bit."

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PARLIAMENT April 12 1983

Minister attacked from both sides over CABs

COMMONS

The Government is to hold an early and independent review of the staff and efficiency of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux...

the association. To ensure that the money is being effectively used I have proposed, with the full support of the association itself, an early and independent review of its staffing and efficiency.

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on consumer affairs, (Warley, West, Lab): The House will welcome what he said about his confidence in the CAB. Does he not appreciate that vague insinuations of the kind which have emerged over the weekend are grossly unfair and very damaging?

Mr Robert McClelland (Barnwood and Ongar, C): Many of us are stout supporters of the CAB because of the great work they do for the less well-off people of this country.

Mr Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea North, Lab): Did he or did he not make statements about misuse of funds by Mrs Ruddock which were quoted?

Mr John Fraser, for the Opposition (Lambeth, Norwood): This unhappy episode has the fingerprints of the Prime Minister all over it. Does he recognize the degree to which the CAB in his statement is being undermined by the support of CABs at local level?



Crouch: Invaluable job

Archer: Vague insinuations

increase in Government funding in recent years. Mr Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley, L): This is a mean-minded attempt to get people who have achieved a high rate of public good for public cost, undrest of in the Department of Trade, who will conduct the review and how, and will be accompanied by a stream of similar publicity?

Dr Vaughan: It will be undertaken either by management consultants (Labour protests and cries of 'What's the fee?') or by our own staff inspectors on the CAB to make a consulting NACAB on that before I finally decide.

Mr Mark Carisle (Runcorn, C): In Runcorn the CAB does enormous amount of good and valuable work and I have never heard any suggestion of political bias during the years I have represented the constituency in Parliament.

improper activities are not taking place, will not be commensated and will not take place. Mr Robert McClelland (Barnwood and Ongar, C): Many of us are stout supporters of the CAB because of the great work they do for the less well-off people of this country.

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Little future in protecting yesterday's jobs

THE ECONOMY

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, was challenged during questions in Commons about the possible suppression of a report to the meeting of the National Economic Development Council on Monday stating that there would be no growth in employment this decade.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Edwin, York, Lab): I am sure that the Government will be able to find a way to ensure that there is no growth in employment this decade.

Mr Roy Jenkins, Leader of the SDP (Glasgow, Hillhead, SDP): Will the Prime Minister tell us why Mr Geoffrey Chandler, Director General of the National Economic Development Office, was given such a rough time at the meeting?

Mr John Deans (Eslington, Lab): What is the essential difference between the upturn in the economy that is being forecast by the Government and the three previous similar forecasts that did not materialize?



Emergency on the Mosel

Firemen take supplies by boat to people marooned by floods in the West German city of Zell. The floods, after several days of heavy rain, came as the Mosel overflowed its banks.

as the river rose to its highest level since 1970. Shipping was also halted on the Mosel and several smaller rivers in the south-west. The Rhine was almost 19ft above its normal level in Bonn and officials said the water was still rising as torrential rain continued to fall.

Yesterday, shipping on the Rhine and Mosel was halted and disaster alerts declared in the cities of Bonn, Cologne and Trier as flooding spread through south-western Germany.

Firemen and volunteers worked all night in Trier laying sandbags and pumping water flooding from the Mosel, swollen by rain in France and West Germany. Some residents had to be evacuated by boat.

Firemen and volunteers worked all night in Trier laying sandbags and pumping water flooding from the Mosel, swollen by rain in France and West Germany. Some residents had to be evacuated by boat.

River police said shipping on the Rhine had been suspended until at least next week.

Bill likely on union democracy

EMPLOYMENT

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said he intended to publish as soon as possible the Government's conclusions on what legislative steps might need to be taken on trade union democracy.

ensure some adequate measure of democracy in them. Mrs Shirley Williams (Crosby, SDP): In the light of the disturbing indicators about employment prospects in the next decade from the green paper to embrace proposals on industrial democracy and combine with the proposals for which he took from my party a proposal for a vote by shareholders before funds are made to the Conservative Party?

Mr Tebbit: I am not sure to which of her parties she refers - (laughter) - the old one or the new one. (Interruption.) The new one she tells me. I can assure her I came to the conclusion these proposals were needed before she swapped parties after she was defeated.

change. Lab) who said that in some inner city areas male unemployment was as high as 50 per cent, a horrendous figure. He wanted to know what plans the Government had to help the unemployed.

Mr Tebbit: These matters are governed by the Companies Act. Such contributions have to be reported to the shareholders who have absolute power over them.

Mr Tebbit: I have received comments on the proposal from Conservative trade unionists, organizations which represent moderate people in industry that almost anything else, for proposals to opt into the political levy rather than opt out?

Mr Tebbit: No. If we wanted a campaign in these years either had used his election address. He knows perfectly well that unemployment has increased by a larger amount in Germany and Norway than in this country since he was last in office.

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House prices could fall by as much as 80% over the next ten to fifteen years. What appears to be a sound investment now might well become a millstone in the future.

New assessment system for Scottish children

EDUCATION

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, outlined in a statement in the Commons proposed changes in the arrangements for the curriculum and assessment of 14 to 16 year olds in school in Scotland.

which I published in September last year. I received several hundred comments upon that paper and I am very grateful for the time and thought which was put into them. The respondents overwhelmingly supported the principle of the introduction of the arrangements proposed in the paper. I have considered their comments and I have decided to implement the new system along the following lines.

introduce Russian, Russian and Spanish at general and credit levels in the first year.

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Secret three-day conference

Walesa meets underground

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Lech Walesa, the chairman of the banned Solidarity trade union, has held three days of secret talks with fugitive underground leaders to coordinate their strategies.

According to the brief communiqué read out by his wife on the telephone from Gdansk, Mr Walesa met the underground "provisional coordinating commission" on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and discussed in detail the country's present situation and coordinated their positions.

Although that does not reveal very much, it is clear that the underground opposition is facing three important events in the coming months: the trial of

KOR dissidents who were Solidarity advisers; the expected protests on May Day and May 3; and the visit to Poland of the Pope in June.

Both Mr Walesa and the underground leaders are agreed that there should be no demonstrations during the Pope's visit - though not all underground Solidarity supporters are willing to accept this - and there is considerable common ground on other issues as well.

But this is the first announced meeting between what might be termed the Solidarity "overground" leadership and the underground. The idea of publicizing it may be to give the underground leadership more authority at a time when it feels increasingly that it is acting in a vacuum, and at the same time make it clear to Poles at large that Mr Walesa's loyalties are still with the banned trade union.

Two symptoms of the discontent that prompted the announcement of the meeting have come in recent days. One is the publication of a long document entitled "Programme and Organization" by a Solidarity radical who writes under the pseudonym of Maciej Poleski.

This raises previously taboo subjects such as the use of force, the need for revolutionary cells and how to exploit the papal visit.

"Democracy should be strong enough to defend itself in case of emergency and not start to think of ways of defending itself at the moment of crisis", Mr Poleski writes in what is a clear challenge to the established underground leaders.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, seemed to suggest at a press conference yesterday that it was not necessarily illegal for Mr

Walesa or any private citizen to meet representatives of an illegal organization. However, if they discussed illegal acts, then Mr Walesa would have committed an offence.

It is not very likely that Mr Walesa will be arrested and he himself is choosing to move step by step along his radical path. Asked whether Mr Walesa had any further plans, his wife said: "Let us wait for further developments." Mr Urban also confirmed that the son of Miss Anna Walentynowicz, the former crane driver and Solidarity activist, recently given a suspended jail term, had been arrested for tearing up a Polish flag. He is now free, awaiting a trial.

Prisoner shot: Guards shot dead a prisoner suspected of armed robbery when he tried to escape from a jail in the eastern Polish city of Luloin, according to official news agency PAF, Reuter reports.



Leaving at last: Maria Chmykhalov, right, stands beside her son Timofei as they are visited by two other members of the family after deciding to return to Siberia.

Pentecostals prepare to quit embassy

Moscow (AP) - Six religious dissidents who have spent five years in a US embassy haven't hoping for Soviet permission to emigrate were preparing last night to leave the compound, a member of the group said.

The dissidents, members of the Pentecostal faith, believe they will receive exit visas, ending a two-decade battle to get out of the Soviet Union, Lilia Vaschenko, aged 25, told a reporter. They will be returning to their Siberian hometown to file the applications, she said.

Since last Wednesday, when another of their group, Lydia Vaschenko, aged 32, was allowed to leave the country, it

had been expected that the remaining six might also be given permission.

The Pentecostals, five Vaschenkos and two members of another family, dashed past Soviet guards and into the embassy compound in June, 1978, in an attempt to leave what one called an "atheistic system in which we cannot live."

After years of refusing to consider the request of the "Siberian Seven," as they came to be called, the Soviet authorities last month told Lydia Vaschenko to resubmit her application for an emigration permit. She returned to Chernogorsk, Siberia, and did so, and then flew to Austria. She is now in Israel.

The members of the group are Pyotr Vaschenko, aged 55, his wife, Augustina, aged 54, the three young Vaschenko women Lydia, Lubov, aged 30, and Lilia, and Maria Chmykhalov, aged 60, and her son, Timofei, aged 21.

"There is a hope we can emigrate", Lilia Vaschenko said. "We talked with some people and they said there is a good chance because Lydia is out... I hope that the Soviets will finally let us go." She said the people they spoke with were Americans, but she would not say whether they were embassy officials.

Lubov Vaschenko said last week an American woman, Jane Drake of Montgomery, Alabama, had taken up the family's cause and was meeting her sister Lydia on her arrival in Vienna.

Lilia Vaschenko said yesterday that once they arrive in Chernogorsk they will probably have to wait two to four weeks for the arrival of a required invitation from Lydia to emigrate to Israel. The Vaschenkos are not Jewish, but Israel has been one of the most common destinations for would-be Soviet emigrants.

Rebels step up Afghan onslaught

Islamabad (Reuters) - Afghan rebels are fighting Soviet and Government troops in three provincial capitals, Western diplomats reported yesterday. They said the fighting has seriously disrupted life in Herat, Kandahar and Gazni. Heavy guerrilla sniper fire along main roads had stopped supplies getting in.

The reports coincided with a frank admission over Kabul radio on Monday night that the war waged by Muslim guerrillas since Soviet troops moved in nearly three and a half years ago had badly damaged Afghanistan's economy.

Sultan Ali Kishman, the Prime Minister, said half of all hospitals and schools had been destroyed, road transport was in disarray, three quarters of communication lines were out of action, urgent repair work was needed on power and water supplies, and large investment was needed in agriculture.

He called for stringent economic measures by all government departments and increased efforts to collect taxes to pay for the country's defence.

Western diplomats were surprised by the Prime Minister's picture of the Afghan economy. The Government had previously portrayed a country successfully going about its business despite attacks by people dismissed as criminals or bandits.

The diplomats said the change in strategy might be an attempt to win international support while United Nations-sponsored peace talks are in progress with Pakistan this week at Geneva.

Some diplomats also felt recent successes by guerrillas, including the cutting of highways and the blocking out of the capital, Kabul, might have left President Babrak Karmal's administration no choice but to admit reverses.

Diplomats who have access to information from Kabul said that in the latest fighting the rebels were virtually in complete control of Afghanistan's main western city of Herat, capital of a province which borders Iran and the Soviet Union.

They said that during the day government forces controlled only small areas around the main administrative buildings while at night the city belonged to the guerrillas.

The situation was similar in Kandahar, capital of a province bordering Pakistan. Normal life no longer existed in Kandahar. One report said more than 70 per cent of the population had fled.

GENEVA: About 60 members of the association of Alpinists in Switzerland, some in national costume, demonstrated yesterday outside the Palais des Nations in Geneva, where expert discussions on the Afghanistan problem are in progress with delegations from Kabul and Islamabad, Alan McGregor writes.

They handed in an open letter to the United Nations Secretary-General saying the essential precondition for any political solution was the immediate, total and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops, as requested by the UN general assembly.

Royal couple in another crush

From Granis Forbes, PA Court Correspondent, Brisbane

The Prince and Princess of Wales were mobbed again yesterday when Queensland police lost control of a crowd of 2,500.

The royal couple made an unscheduled stop at a famous beauty spot, Alexandra Headland, as they drove to Maroochydore airport on their way to their farmhouse at Woomargama.

Mr Victor Chapman, the Royal couple's press spokesman, said: "As soon as the royal couple stepped out of the car we were swamped by the crowd."

Because the stop was an unscheduled event it was not planned. "There were only the police officers in the motorcade and they just could not cope with the crowds."

Large crowds, which had gathered to see the Prince and Princess when they visited a nut processing plant also engulfed their car as they left to drive away.

The bodyguards became agitated as police seemed unable to control well-wishers, and it took a lot of shouting before a passage could be cleared.

Thorn fear on Britain's EEC refund

From George Clark, Strasbourg

In a speech full of warnings about crises lying ahead for the EEC, Mr Gaston Thorn, president of the European Commission, told the European Parliament yesterday that a refund for Britain to compensate for overpayments on contributions in 1983 could be held up if there was no agreement on the restructuring of Community finances in the long term.

After the March summit meeting in Brussels, it seemed that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had been given a guarantee that, pending the long-term solution, Britain would receive a refund this year.

Mr Thorn told MEPs that the summit had been disappointing. It had produced few tangible results and if there was a repetition at the Stuttgart summit in June the Community would be plunged into a serious crisis. It was essential, he said, that the summit should produce a solution on Community financing, energy policy, enlargement and industrial decline.

Referring to the British budgetary problem Mr Thorn said: "For the Commission it is only in the context of a long-term solution that we can consider the immediate and short-term problems." The Commission would stand by its commitment to the European Parliament on February 8 that it would strive for a long-term revision of the Community's financial structure.

That was why the Commission had not involved itself in the passage in the summit communiqué relating to the subsequent payment, he said.

Commission officials later explained that Mr Thorn wanted to indicate that the Commission would not come forward with a proposition on a refund to Britain this year, until plans for a long-term solution were "on the table".

This view was supported by Mr Adam Ferguson, MEP for Strathclyde West, a spokesman for the Conservative group, who demonstrated how the British attitude to the European Parliament took a "U" turn.

In December last year there was anger among the Conservatives about the Parliament's decision to block the British rebate of £500m for 1982 and Mrs Thatcher also condemned the move.

But since then, both she and the Conservative group have come to realize that Parliament could be Mrs Thatcher's best ally in forcing the Community to revise its financing so that Britain and West Germany do not have to pay unfairly high contributions.

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Troops sent to quell fresh Karachi riots

Karachi (Reuters) - Troops were sent to control a fresh outbreak of religious violence in Karachi yesterday, as thousands of Muslim demonstrators burnt shops, houses and cars. Police were unable to control Sunni crowds in the Liaquatabad area, during a confrontation between Sunni and Shia Muslims.

Police earlier fired tear gas to break up a stone-throwing crowd in the predominantly Sunni area, where at least seven people were killed last month in clashes between the sects. The conflict is over ownership of a mosque.

Thirteen people were arrested for attacking policemen and damaging property and arrests were continuing, according to the police. Local residents said the clashes were set off by the stabbing of a Sunni youth, which the Sunnis blamed on Shias.

About 700,000 people live in Liaquatabad, of whom some 95 per cent are Sunnis, the majority sect in Pakistan.

More than 6,000 people were said to have attacked a Shia meeting place about six miles north-east of Karachi's main shopping centre of Saddar. Another group of about 2,000 attacked a Shia mosque and made a bonfire of its furniture, while smaller groups set fire to shops and houses in the area.

Shia sources said about 30,000 people of their sect had already moved from Liaquatabad to other parts of Karachi after the clashes last month.

Four-nation peace drive in Central America launched by Colombia

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

Alarmed by continuing conflict in El Salvador, the danger of all-out war erupting between Honduras and Nicaragua and the intransigence of the United States towards Central America, the foreign ministers of four key Latin American countries embarked yesterday on a peace mission to the region, instigated by President Belisario Betancur of Colombia.

The Foreign Ministers of Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico and Panama are due to visit all five Central American republics (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica) for talks with their counterparts, in an attempt to reduce tension.

The mission was not planned in advance, and was only agreed in Panama City on Sunday night, after Señor Betancur arrived on the final leg of a three-day trip which had also taken him to Venezuela and Mexico for talks on the Central American crisis.

The announcement was made yesterday by Señor Juan José Amador, the Panamanian Foreign Minister, after a long meeting with his colleagues from Venezuela, Colombia and Mexico.

After his discussions with President Luis Herrera Campíns of Venezuela, President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico, President Ricardo de la Espriella of Panama and President Luis Alberto Monge of Costa Rica, who was also visiting Panama at the weekend, Señor Betancur said that the Central American crisis was even worse than he had expected.

He described the situation as "truly explosive", and also hinted that he and his colleagues were becoming increasingly irritated by the Reagan Administration's hardline policy.

Señor Betancur called for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign military advisers from Central America, the suspension of arms sales to the region, respect for the right of its peoples to self-determination, negotiations between the conflicting parties and recognition that the source of the conflict is widespread poverty and social injustice and not super-power politics.

The Colombian President

suggested that what was required to resolve the crisis was the kind of Latin American solidarity which successfully supported Panama's claims to sovereignty over the Panama Canal.

He also hinted that Cuba must be brought into peace talks. "Everything is open, everything is possible. We are seekers of peace in Central America and for that reason we must talk to everyone."

Gabriel García Márquez, the Colombian winner of the 1982 Nobel prize for literature, said on his return to Colombia for his first visit in two years: "Colombia is now assuming the leadership which it should long ago have taken with Mexico, but which only Mexico has exercised in the past."

NEW YORK: Contentions by the Reagan Administration that the Sandinist Government of Nicaragua has hidden behind a smokescreen of national security to install a repressive regime and abolish dissent have been largely dismissed by the United Nations Human Rights Committee, a body of experts which monitors the state of civil and political liberties, Zoriana Pysyrisvsky writes.

Most individual members of the committee, who serve in their personal capacity rather than as representatives of governments, have described as admirable Nicaragua's performance in the area of human rights, in view of the military challenge to its leadership from right wing rebels and reported American covert operations to destabilize it.

Nevertheless, the Nicaraguan Government has not been "truly explosive", and also hinted that he and his colleagues were becoming increasingly irritated by the Reagan Administration's hardline policy.

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completely exonerated, and concern has been expressed over the plight of the Miskito Indians, after their forced resettlement from the Nicaragua-Honduras border area.

The committee also criticized curbs on the press, cases of police abuse, the reported discrimination against a synagogue and the limited role of political parties.

WASHINGTON: The United States yesterday accused the Government of Nicaragua of repeatedly making clear its "contempt" for real negotiations, and said that the answer to Central America's problems was "democratization and dialogue among neighbours".

Mr Thomas Enders, Assistant Secretary of State, in a prepared statement to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said: "The purpose of US policy in the area is to create conditions in which the area can be removed from East-West conflict, the import of offensive weapons and mutual support for insurgencies ended, and the democratic transformation of each society achieved."

Mr Enders was giving testimony after following allegations in the American press that the Administration is giving covert aid to the anti-Sandinist movement operating from bases in Honduras.

Referring to the Nicaraguan opposition, Mr Enders said: "It should be clear to you that it has appeared and expanded in response to deep grievances against the Sandinistas. The groups opposing the Sandinist Government were Nicaraguans to the core."

"As long as Nicaragua forces legitimate dissent at home to follow violent means and persists in threatening and destabilizing its neighbours, it will never be stable, nor will Central America."

Mr Enders said that it was conceivable that Cuba or the Soviet Union could be tempted to escalate the conflict.

"Clearly a dangerous situation would then develop, unacceptable not only to Central America but to the American nations as a whole. We have communicated to Moscow and Havana how dangerous such a move would be."

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The Colombian President

Middle East: Lebanese stalemate; Foreign Secretary meets Husain

I must be governor, Haddad says

From Christopher Walker, Metulla

Major Saad Haddad, the temperamental south Lebanese militia commander, whose militia has emerged as the main obstacle preventing agreement between Israel, Lebanese and American negotiators over the withdrawal of Israel's invasion force, threatened yesterday to resist any solution on which he had not been formally consulted.

Despite the flat refusal of the Beirut Government to offer its cashed-in officer any position in the new military set-up envisaged for Lebanon, Major Haddad is insisting on the position of "military governor of southern Lebanon".

Stating his terms publicly for the first time, he said: "I see my role as it is now, but it should be legitimized. I am effectively military governor of the south, and that must be made formal. If anyone wants to get rid of me, they will have to get rid of all the people in the south too, because they are behind me."

In an interview with *The Times*, he made no attempt to disguise his position, frustration, anger and anxiety about the possible outcome of the slow moving talks over Lebanon, or about mounting American pressure on Israel to modify its insistence that he be made commander of all Lebanese soldiers based in the 27-mile deep security zone.

According to Washington sources, this pressure reached a new peak last week when Mr William Casey, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, made a clandestine visit to Jerusalem in an apparently vain effort to convince ministers that the revamped Lebanese army is quite capable of preventing Palestinian guerrillas returning to menace Israel.

"I do not know what I have done to upset the Americans because for seven years I have been fighting against leftists and communists," the major told me.

While we were talking in the seamy border hotel which serves as the major's unofficial headquarters in Israel, two Israeli generals suddenly arrived unannounced and engaged him in an animated Hebrew and Arabic conversation.

Their talk and final warm embraces were apparently intended to soothe the major's doubts that he is being ignored as negotiations reach a climax.

"I am grateful to Israel for pressing for my future, but you must know that whatever concerns me should be discussed by the Israelis and Lebanese with me personally, and not on my behalf," Major Haddad argued, thumping the shabby plastic table with his fist, much to the consternation of the Israeli officer overseeing the meeting.

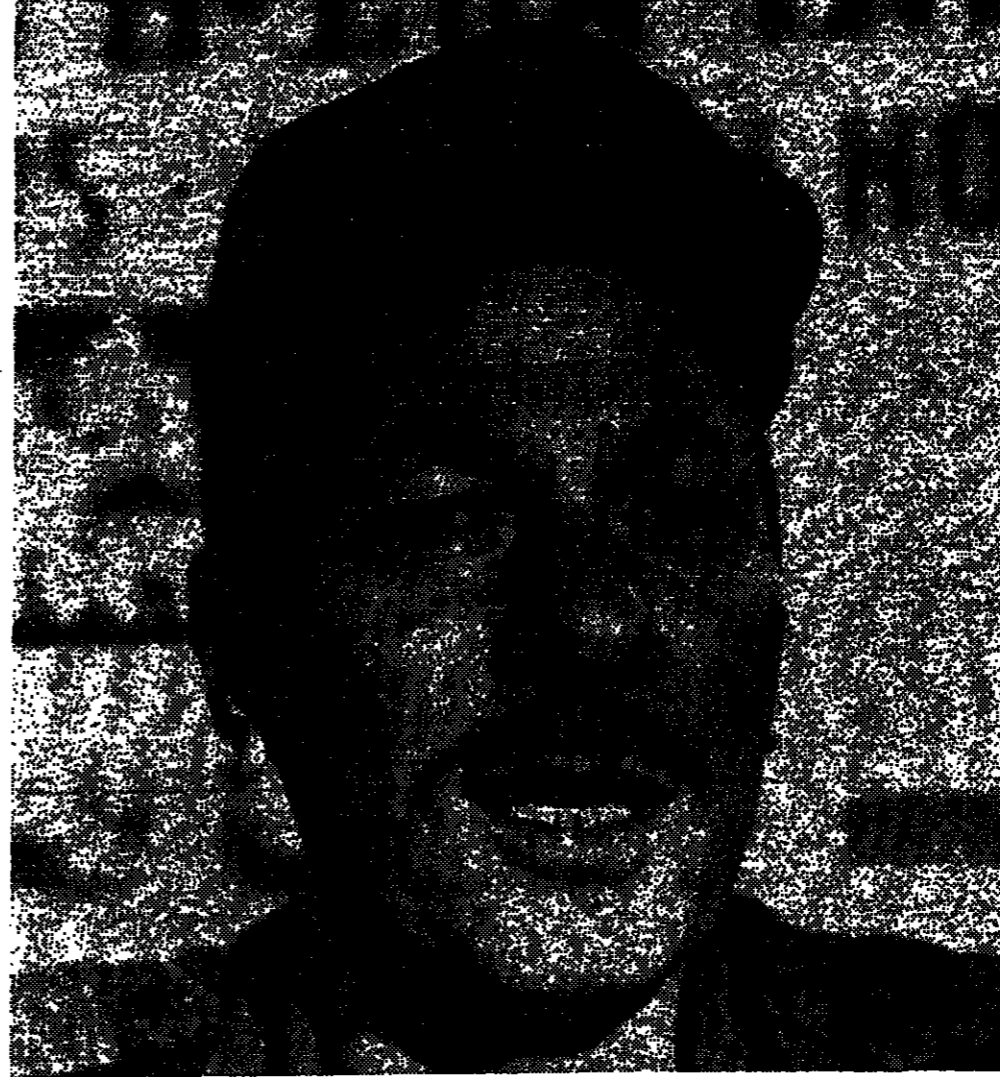
On Monday, the major held a two-hour conversation with Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Israeli defence minister, - "a very close friend" - who was given a strong message to convey to the Israeli Cabinet when it convenes to finalize its position over security in the zone now often referred to as "Hezbollah".

The brunt of the militia leader's criticism is reserved for the Lebanese administration of President Amin Gemayel, which he claimed has made no effort to contact him formally since the Israeli invasion expanded his border enclave last summer.

"My people in the south and those up in Beirut have been fighting the same enemies, we have the same contacts and the same ally in Israel, so why are they accepted and we are not?" He complained bitterly.

In the aftermath of last June's invasion, Israeli training and other assistance to the 2,000-strong Haddad militia force have been greatly stepped up.

"I am now taking more steps to increase my military effectiveness because we know that the Syrians are not going to withdraw peacefully," he said. "The duty of every Lebanese today is to prepare himself to fight the Syrians."



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Fears for six after attack on yacht

Singapore (Reuters) - A West German-owned yacht with six people on board was set on fire after being fired on near the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, official sources in Singapore said.

The Sidharta left Singapore on Saturday with five West Germans, including its co-owner Herr Peter Marx and his Chinese girl friend to set up an amateur radio link on the Spratlys. Radio contact with the 31ft vessel was lost after it sent a distress message saying it was ablaze after an attack. It did not identify the attackers or give its exact location.

The Spratly Islands are occupied by forces from the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. China and Malaysia have also laid claim to the islands, which are believed to have rich offshore oil reserves.

Frenchman set free by Peking

Peking (AFP) - China has released a 49-year-old French-Chinese man who had been held in labour camps since 1955, French sources said here. M Raymond Razillon was freed last month and left for France on Friday.

Born in China of a French father and a Chinese mother, he was detained in Shanghai with other members of the Roman Catholic community during an anti-religious wave.

Napoleon's debt to be repaid

Zurich (Reuters) - President Mitterrand of France has promised to make a "symbolic" repayment of a debt Napoleon incurred with a Swiss mountain village nearly two centuries ago.

The village of Bourg St Pierre wrote to the French Embassy in Bern last week asking how France planned to repay the debt of 45,334 Swiss francs (about £14,000 at today's rates) which Napoleon left behind in 1800 on his way across the Alps to Italy.

Marcos gives his seal of approval

Manila (AFP) - President Marcos and his wife have given their blessings to the controversial marriage of their eldest daughter, Imee, to a divorced basketball coach, Tommy Manotoc, a spokesman for Mrs Marcos said here.

Imee, who is 27, gave birth to a boy in Honolulu last Saturday and President Marcos, asked if he was resigned to being called a grandfather, was said to have replied: "More so than the first lady."

Briton stranded

Fears are growing for the safety of David Hempleman-Adams (above), the lone polar explorer. He has been stranded in the Arctic ice by bad weather with just a few days of food remaining.

Mr Hempleman-Adams, aged 26, from Bristol, had passed the halfway mark in his attempt to walk solo to the North Pole when the weather deteriorated.

Minister sacked

Singapore (Reuters) - Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Singapore Prime Minister, yesterday dismissed Mr Lim Chee Onn, Minister without Portfolio, as the country's trade union chief, but kept him in the Government pending reassignment to a ministry.

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Cairo (Reuters) - An Egyptian court upheld a ban on the Coptic Pope Shenouda III in 1981, the late President Sadat banished the 60-year-old pope to a desert monastery and stripped him of his temporal powers for "fomenting sectarian strife".

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Lima (Reuters) - Three teachers who refused to indoctrinate pupils with left-wing ideology were killed by Maoist guerrillas in Peru's Ayacucho province, a government official said but he did not name the school or town.

Storms kill 41

Dhaka (AFP) - Dhaka newspapers put the death toll in last weekend's hailstorms in Bangladesh at 41. In Dhaka, a young girl hit by a hailstone died in hospital.

Measles deaths

Port Elizabeth (AFP) - Some 100 black and coloured children here have died of measles in the last three months, the Cape Province health authorities announced.

Three defect

Stockholm - Three Polish wrestlers touring with a national team have applied for political asylum in Sweden.

Nkomo 'lost support of companies'

Harare (Reuters, AFP) - Two British companies have withdrawn financial and other support for Mr Joshua Nkomo, the exiled Opposition leader, because he broke a promise to return home last week, the pro-Government *Herald* newspaper reported yesterday.

Mr Nkomo said last week that he would remain in Britain indefinitely, after the publication in Zimbabwe of a Catholic bishops' statement alleging atrocities by government troops in his home province of Matabeleland.

The *Herald* said in a report from London that the firms, which it said had also withdrawn moral and political support, had spent £14,500 on Mr Nkomo and two aides since his flight.

Mr Nkomo, aged 65, fled Zimbabwe early last month, saying that Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, had ordered him to be killed.

The *Herald* report did not identify the companies sponsoring Mr Nkomo in Britain, saying only that they had holdings in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya and other African states.

However, it appeared certain that one of them was Lounho, whose chief executive, Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, is a close friend of Mr Nkomo. The company in London refused to comment. Dunlop has denied that it is the other company.

The companies had kept in touch with the Harare Government throughout the affair, the *Herald* said. Mr Nkomo had been told through them that the only actions pending against him in Zimbabwe would be charges of emerald trafficking and the relatively minor charge of currency violations.

Not long ago we were told the price of oil would continue to rise indefinitely. Now banks, heads of state and OPEC members are frantically trying to prevent too drastic a decline. What are the startling implications of this phenomenon?

IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE THE DOWNWAVE TURN TO PAGE 8

Non-racial unions try to form united front

Seven independent and non-racial trade union groups have agreed to work for greater unity and to consider forming a new umbrella trade union federation. The decision was taken at a summit meeting of union leaders in Cape Town.

The seven groups represent about 220,000 of the 300,000 or so of the predominantly black members of the new breed of unions that has emerged over the past three years since the South African Government relaxed controls on union activity.

The biggest of the seven union bodies is the federation of South Africa Trade Unions, which has 1.3 million members and which has slightly over 100,000 signed-up members, mainly in the metal, chemical, textile and car industries.

Mr Jan Theron, general secretary of the African Food and Canning Workers Union, which is also one of the seven, said after the Cape Town meeting: "The time is long overdue for the formation of a new federation which can speak for the workers of this country and tackle the task of properly organizing workers."

Another big black trade union group, the Council of Unions of South Africa, has said it will not be taking part in the talks.

Another union standing aloof from the talks is the unaffiliated Motor Assembly and Component Workers Union. The other chief union in the car industry, the National Automobile and Allied Workers' Union, however, is an affiliate of the federation and will be taking part.

Differences over strategy have bedevilled the emerging black trade union movement, in many respects one of the most potent challenges the government faces. A strike in the Eastern Cape car industry last year, for example, by workers for a 76 per cent increase in minimum hourly pay was weakened by lack of support from the Motor Assembly and Component Workers.

Among the issues dividing unions is the question of whether or not to accept registration and operate within the government-approved industrial council bargaining system. Some unions see registration as tantamount to accepting government control, while others have found they can use the system to their advantage.

Some unions - like the Cape-based General Workers Union - which are not themselves registered feel registration should be a matter for each union to decide, while others, such as the radical South African Allied Workers' Union, have insisted that they will not work with any registered unions.

Last weekend's meeting in Cape Town, attended by several hundred delegates representing virtually the entire independent trade union movement, was the most important move so far towards trying to bridge some of these differences. A "feasibility committee" is to be set up over the next four to six weeks to pursue the idea further.

Lesotho at war with Pretoria, Premier says

Chief Leabua Jonathan, the Prime Minister of Lesotho, has urged his 1.3 million compatriots to accept that they are in an effective state of war with South Africa. He called on Basutos to bury their differences so as to enable the Kingdom better to face the onslaught. With all the world on its side, victory was assured.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Chief Jonathan said that the South African offensive was not limited to armed attacks. It was extended to the economy as was shown by what he claimed was a campaign to discourage tourists from coming to Lesotho.

Chief Jonathan also alleged that a situation was being created whereby the movement of goods through South Africa to landlocked Lesotho would become virtually impossible, especially for supplies of military equipment.

Act now, Pym urges Israel and PLO

Amman (Reuters) - Mr Francis Pym the Foreign Secretary said after talks with King Hussein of Jordan last night that there was no feasible alternative to President Reagan's plan as a starting point for the Middle East peace process.

He urged Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to seize the opportunity for peace "which will not recur and will not exist for much longer".

He was speaking at Amman airport after a three-hour stopover arranged after Jordan's announcement on Sunday that it had abandoned five months of talks with the PLO.

Mr Pym arrived in Amman on his way home from visits to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to hear King Hussein's views about the future of the Reagan plan, which the PLO has rejected in favour of a rival Arab plan.

"The events of the last week did not alter the simple reality that there is no feasible alternative to using the Reagan plan, despite the reservations that many countries feel about it, as the starting point for the peace process," he said.

Paris (Reuters) - Parliament has empowered France's left-wing Government to enact austerity measures by decree after the Communist Party dropped a threat to abstain in the vote.

The National Assembly, where the Socialists have an absolute majority, voted 325 to 159 to enable the Government to introduce by decree new taxes and a compulsory loan by wage-earners to the state.

A potential crisis in the Government coalition was averted on Monday night when the Communist Party voted with the Socialists after winning a promise from M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, to modify aspects of the package.

The Communists had threatened to abstain unless the Government agreed to five amendments to shift the burden of the fund-raising measures further on to wealthier taxpayers.

The Government gave way on two of the demands, agreeing to exonerate the poorest from a one per cent additional income tax to cover social security spending and to make further allowances for low-income households in the compulsory savings.

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He also argued that the package would purge the two greatest evils plaguing the country - inflation and low international competitiveness - and enable the Government to pursue its long-term goals.

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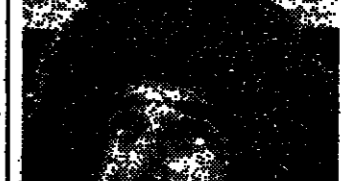
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Measles deaths

THE ARTS

Theatre
Implacable sense of doom

Blood Brothers
Lyric

So this is the great new hyped-up musical? Reports when it started at Liverpool suggested that it was first and foremost, an accomplished and thrilling theatrical experience, but arriving in Shaftesbury Avenue it now gives a different impression: a show whose justification lies rather in the urgency of its message than in the clumsy dramatic vehicle constructed to carry it.

Visible prejudice

Mitzi Wildebeest
The Gate, Latchmere

There are two sides to Mitzi Wildebeest. One is the laughable, big-top, South African cousin to Dame Edna Everage. The other is the descendant of the Voortrekkers, evoking the ghost of her great-great-grandmother walking barefoot over the Drakensberg Mountains to escape British rule.

She begins by writing on the blackboard: "The Scissor, freak

murderous enmity between, the natural brothers of which the whole of society is made. Omens artificially heighten the sense of doom - magics, snakes on tables, broken mirrors in a cumbersome apparatus of superstition, constructed only to knock it down.

The production by Chris Bond and Danny Hillier is fluently staged without taking a sufficiently brutal line with this sprawling script. They have a moodily excellent supporting company, switching instantly from grown-up neighbours to a yardful of kids whose rituals and play of violence furnish a facile connexion with the uncanny force of destiny and real bullets in the adult world.

Anthony Masters

untree". Read it quickly and that is all you need to remember about South Africa, she says. She gives a slide show of South African scenes - the Wildebeest Dutch colonial house and backyard with swimming pool - then she expounds the divine righteousness of the Afrikaner hardliners: "If God had been a liberal he wouldn't have given us a commandments, he would have made ten suggestions."

Clare Colvin

Opera
Once more, with feeling

Don Pasquale
Covent Garden

Avé atque vale. The present revival of Donizetti's comic masterpiece offers a last chance to see Sir Geraint Evans in his subtlest buffo interpretation, for he has announced that he will not sing Don Pasquale again. But, as in previous runs of this production mounted for him 10 years ago, he spreads his beneficent welcome over new arrivals: Luciana Serra as a totally assured and marvellous Norina, Francisco Araiza making his house debut as Ernesto, and Guido Ajmons-Marsan also appearing here for the first time to conduct a performance that on Monday lifted from a shaky start to achieve rattling fast tempos and silky expressiveness in the strings, so capturing the twin poles of this sentimental comedy.

Fun and feeling are also the hallmarks of Sir Geraint's interpretation. Since Don Pasquale is the victim almost throughout of a deception, it would make for a hollow evening if the one playing him were also manifestly to deceive, to act up the fussiness.

Sir Geraint does not. His Don Pasquale remains no buffoon: he is simply naive rather than silly, and one feature of his nature is his ignorance of women. Hence his desperately sad as well as comic interview with Norina, when he artfully calls into play the almost strangled voice of the nervous, confused old bachelor.

LSO/Hickox
Festival Hall

London has had a rare surfeit of Gerontius lately. Richard Hickox's on Monday with the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, which comes late in a run of distinguished performances, was undeniably, perhaps, less of a box-office draw. But it more than justified its place by building with fresh assurance and integrity a pilgrim's progress which often conjured images whose immediacy and vigour owed as much to the seventeenth as to the nineteenth century.

From the inexorable tread of the opening, unfolding more in might than in mystery, it was clear that Mr Hickox would eradicate every stylistic cliché, focusing expression so often dissipated in overpointed phrasing and verbalizing into a powerfully long-sighted view of the whole.

Both orchestra and, particularly, the superbly trained chorus, attacked and sustained both the terror of the Demons



Lyricism and sadness: Francisco Araiza (left), Geraint Evans

through with exciting, polished perfection, and she acts as she sings: with simple and utter command. She can also be as much the young girl as the little madam, even within a single phrase, with perhaps a first half coming out with steel-tipped coyness and a second pulling back into fresh loveliness.

Concerts

Smetana Quartet
St John's/Radio 3

Milan Skampa, the viola-player of the Smetana Quartet, has worked for many years on Janacek manuscripts, unearthing new sources for his edition of the "Kreutzer Sonata" Quartet, which the group brought to the BBC lunchtime concert on Monday.

In a single, fleeting performance of rare inner compulsion and intensity, it was difficult to isolate and distinguish the finer points of editorial amendment. What was unmistakable, though, was the pure distillation of the spirit of the Janacek of Kanya Kabanova: tempi were pushed desperately, harder than in this quartet's own recording, and nerve-endings were left lacerated and raw, and even in the sustained passages of harmonic relief there was only a reluctant ripening of instrumental tone.

The very numbness, almost without vibrato, of the violin's muted entry in the last movement (Janacek marked it "as if

in tears") typified the searching, powerfully integrated interpretative approach of the quartet to this work. They played from memory, as if each note had been permeating and mauling in their veins for many years; and those listeners who thought they were in for a smooth ride in Dvorak were quite mistaken.

Hilary Finch

Warne Marsh
Pizza on the Park

Not often in a jazz club is it difficult to find an appropriate moment in which to unloose a discreet cough. On Monday night Warne Marsh, the great American tenor saxophonist, and his partner, the pianist Lou Levy, redrew the parameters of an audience's attention with duets of such sensitive detail that even the brief rasp of a cigarette lighter or the gentle gurgle of liquor into a glass seemed a barbaric intrusion; plates of food went cold on every side as the pair wove a spell which would doubtless be maintained when they played across town tonight to the Pizza Express in Soho, where they will spend the remainder of the week.

Born a few months apart 55 years ago, Marsh and Levy grew up under the spell of Lester Young and Charlie Parker and, in Marsh's case, of Lennie Tristano, the pianist and teacher whose concern was to explore the pure abstractions of a music which was about nothing other than itself.

Marsh's playing has scarcely changed at all in 30 years. His sound is unique: light, pale, pressureless, his astonishingly complex phrases extruded with a minimum of apparent effort. His lines are shaped with exotic

Paul Griffiths

Jazz
Relaxed intensity

Warne Marsh
Pizza on the Park

unpredictability, yet their logic is so implacable that one gasps and grins as they unfold. "Subconscious-Lee", written by his old colleague Lee Konitz, was pure, uncut Tristano music full of flying fingers and glancing tangents; on the other hand, "How High the Moon" was stroked down to ballad tempo and ennobled with a simple, singing lyricism.

Levy, who enjoys less of an in-grown reputation, was every bit as remarkable. On the Konitz tune he displayed the tensile strength of Bud Powell allied to an architectural sensibility all his own. With "I'm Old Fashioned" he produced a definition of the ideal of relaxed intensity, including the stealthiest imaginable conversion to a lifting double-time. His tune "Lunarcy", based on playful Monkish leaps, allowed the pair to develop contrapuntal inventions with telegraphic precision and with the spontaneous warmth which suffused every second of their music.

Richard Williams

Television
A world of debris

Unemployment in Bolton is above the national average and it was the purpose of BBC1's documentary Nothing Doing last night to give us a taste of the depression that is not just economic but, psychological, if you are being hit over the head with it. The intention was worthy, for a shared concern over national ills is surely a prerequisite of any valid kind of national pride, and it did leave me depressed, but the execution left too many questions unanswered for the programme to be considered entirely objective.

Six teenagers were examined in differing degrees of depth to show the hopelessness and listlessness of life without prospects. They reflected these qualities so abjectly that one wondered how the selection came about, whether Bolton's youth, suffering as it undoubtedly is, is quite like this.

First, there was Trevor, listening while his mother retailed the sad struggles of her life, then hailed off in an interview by a social worker, who lent him a jacket for the occasion, to learn to be a french polisher, or at least to fetch the meals for those who actually did the job. The social worker seemed to think that, as with others on the Youth Opportunity Programme (which did not come out of this programme well), Trevor's long-term chances were poor, that his present luck was just a temporary exploitation of low-cost labour.

Then there were Pete, apparently with a prison sentence hanging over him, and his two brothers, Roy and John. We never did find out what Pete's offence was, and his predicament seemed irrelevant to that of his two brothers. Their father considered the YOP just exploitation, and thought they should have none of it.

Dave followed. He was on a three-year contract under the scheme but feared it would end as soon as he was 19. His girlfriend was pregnant and we saw them married. Shortly afterwards his fears were proved right.

Lastly there was Martin, from a middle-class household, educationally unsuccessful and willfully away his time playing the guitar and Space Invaders. His father thought teenagers would be better served if they were told that unemployment was a permanent threat; his mother that it could all end in revolution.

They were all shot on sunless days with a kind of loitering technique that made everything look like debris. It was a technique that demanded little participation from the subjects and Paul Watson's programme was poorer for it.

On BBC1 also, Reluctant Chickens concerned another social phenomenon: the tendency of children to stay at home long after they should fly. Many might think this a tragedy for parents but David Cregan sought to make a comedy of it. Patrick Troughton, as the GP father, Gwen Watford, as the mother, and the rest of the cast did their best, but if the chickens were reluctant the comedy never cracked the shell.

Dennis Hackett

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLLEGE ST 8.30-10.00 ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA... THE ROYAL OPERA... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE...

CONCERTS

BARBICAN HALL... ANNA DAVIES... DAVID KIRWAN... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE...

THEATRES

APOLLO THEATRE... TOM CONTI... PAULINE COLLINS... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE...

COMEDY THEATRES

COMEDY THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE...

GLASS

GLASS... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE...

LYTTLETON

LYTTLETON... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE...

THE SWAN THEATRE

THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE...

RSC THE TAMING OF THE SHREW The RSC has a success to be proud of

THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE...

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DRAWING IN THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE WORKSHOP Leonardo da Vinci, Pisanello, Carpaccio and other early Renaissance Artists...

ACADEMY 2 Eduardo de Gregorio's ASPERN From the story by HENRY JAMES

THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE... THE SWAN THEATRE...

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Depo-Provera: a drug on trial

Jenny Bryan reports on the facts and fears surrounding the controversial contraceptive

The controversial injectable contraceptive Depo-Provera goes "on trial" before a panel of distinguished medical and legal experts in London next week. They will decide whether the drug should be licensed for long-term use in Britain in the face of massive adverse publicity in America, where it has been claimed the drug is dangerous, might be misused and might be given only to poorly educated socially deprived women without their understanding its implications.

The American manufacturers, Upjohn, have fought for a British licence for Depo-Provera, which is at least as effective as the Pill and more reliable than the IUD, cap or sheath, for seven years.

Next week's British hearing has arisen because Kenneth Clarke, the Health Minister, chose as one of his first ministerial actions to overrule the committee on Safety of Medicines which advised him to grant Depo-Provera a full licence for women for whom other methods of contraception were inappropriate. Mr Clarke is believed to have taken his decision because of the risk of women of low social class being given the drug without their informed consent.

One of the hearing's key witnesses will be Dame Josephine Barnes, a former president of the British Medical Association, who will argue that the problems of giving Depo-Provera to women who cannot understand its risks and benefits are no different from those of any drug.

Already, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Family Planning Association have come down in favour of Depo-Provera becoming just another alternative in the choice of contraceptives.

No one is quite sure what will come out of the hearing. No drug wrangle has ever reached the stage of the agreed procedures. Kenneth Clarke has already overruled his medical advisers once - he could, in theory, override the independent panel's recommendations too.

Upjohn does not stand to make a lot of money out of Depo-Provera in Britain. Around two million women get the Pill from their GP - at a cost of about £13.5m. According to Dame Josephine, several thousand women who would probably get Depo-Provera if it were fully licensed. But a positive decision from the British authorities would help Upjohn to sell the drug in other areas - such as developing countries - where the market is much larger.

In its 400-page written evidence to the panel, the Coordinating Group on Depo-Provera, composed of women actively involved in women's health issues, has drawn on information it has received about more than 100 women who felt they were not fully informed of the possible side effects of Depo-Provera.

Many were women with a poor understanding of English for whom no provision had been made for information to be given in their own language.

Six out of seven women who answered an appeal for women who felt they had been mistreated in one London health district were black and several were young unmarried mothers.

Three years ago one professional singer got an out of court settlement of £3,750 from King's College Hospital, London, because her career was disrupted as a result of side effects from Depo-Provera which had not been fully explained to her.

The drug has been used most widely in developing countries where there have been many reports especially from Africa and Asia of women given the drug without their fully informed consent and of doctors exceeding their own countries' recommendations of its use.

There was even a report of women in a Cambodian refugee camp being given the drug with the promise of extra food. Even so, the drug is used as part of WHO and International Planned Parenthood Federation contraception programmes.

At present several health authorities including America and Canada are considering whether to license Depo-Provera, after lengthy debate on the medical and social implications. In the past, the US has refused to license the drug for even short term use.

The Coordinating Group on Depo-Provera - the main pressure group against the drug - will not be allowed to give verbal evidence at the hearing. But its comprehensive written evidence would do justice to an organisation with much greater resources at its disposal.

Much of the evidence rests on the known side effects of the drug but also raised doubts about the largely unknown long term effects of continued use of Depo-Provera. The group argues that if Depo-Provera is to come on the market at all its use should be limited and controlled so that the terms of the drug's licence are not exceeded.

Upjohn's expert witnesses - a list of whom reads like a Who's Who of obstetrics and pharmacology - will give verbal evidence. The hearing will be held in the conference suite, Riverwalk House, Millbank, London, SW1, starting on Monday, April 25, 1983 at 10am.

On the panel will be Professor Rosalinde Hurley, chairwoman of the Medicines Commission at the DHSS, Professor A. Ascher, also a member of the Medicines Commission, Ian Kennedy, director of the Centre of Law, Medicine and Ethics at King's College, London, Professor H. Jacobs, consultant gynaecologist and Professor F. A. Langley.



Third World population control: Depo-Provera is given to a young woman in Thailand

The benefits and side-effects

Depo-Provera is a synthetic form of one of the body's natural hormones, progesterone. Each injection prevents pregnancy for at least three months by stopping a woman's eggs developing and by making her womb hostile to any fertilized egg which might creep through.

Since 1978 Depo-Provera has been used in Britain for short-term contraception, which means one, or at most two, injections. Doctors can, and often do, exert their "clinical judgment" and give Depo-Provera for longer periods - for years, rather than months.

There is evidence that Depo-Provera has been misused - given to socially disadvantaged women without full counselling about the drug and its side effects. Its very nature makes it an ideal drug for women who find it impossible to remember to take the pill or use other forms of contraception. A few doctors are thought to have taken it upon themselves to inject such women - often after an abortion or an unwanted child - without explaining the full implications of the drug.

Depo-Provera often prevents a woman from having her normal period. This in itself worries women given insufficient counselling since they think they may be pregnant when their periods stop. In the first months or even up to a year after taking the drug she will have some unpredictable bleeding. Before the injection is given there is no way of knowing whether this will be mild or severe.

Once the injection is given there is

no turning back - for the first months the woman must simply "grin and bear it" if she is one of the unfortunate minority who bleeds severely.

Depo-Provera does not cause permanent infertility but women may be slow to conceive after they stop the drug, so it is better kept for women not planning further children. It is often these older women who have a narrow choice of contraceptive methods because their weight, blood pressure or smoking puts them at risk of heart problems if they take the pill.

An enthusiastic supporter of Depo-Provera is Dr John Tyllieskr, of the department of obstetrics and gynaecology at the general hospital in Motala, southern Sweden, and also runs his own practice. He believes Depo-Provera is the best contraceptive for women over 35 who do not want more children, and half of his patients in that category use the drug.

Motala is a provincial town with a population of about 30,000 and is far removed from the poor inner cities of Britain when Depo-Provera achieved its controversial status. More than 400 Motala women use the drug, a proportion at least 20 times greater than in the rest of Sweden.

Dr Tyllieskr recently surveyed 182 women who first had Depo-Provera in the early 1970s. Some had had a single injection, others had stayed on the drug for 12 years. Four out of five liked the drug, but 22 per cent had stopped it because of side effects. The most common of

these were irregular bleeding, weight gain, decreased sex drive and depression.

Since most women who stopped treatment did so within a year of starting Depo-Provera, the survey supported the view that, provided women can cope with the bleeding irregularities in the first months, they generally use the contraceptive for several years.

And what of the benefits? Forty-five per cent of the women in the survey said that not having periods was an advantage, as was the simplicity and reliability of the method.

One woman I spoke to at Dr Tyllieskr's clinic, started having Depo-Provera nine years ago after suffering a thrombosis that made it impossible to continue with the Pill. She experienced some bleeding in the early months, but it was not bad enough to make her stop the treatment. A bonus was the disappearance of eczema and migraine from which she had previously suffered.

Two other women had started Depo-Provera because of the risk of circulatory problems with the Pill. One had high blood pressure, the other a family history of heart problems.

The eldest patient Dr Tyllieskr had had on the drug was 54. Since there is a tentative theory that Depo-Provera may have a role in protecting women from breast cancer, the doctor believes women should continue to use it even after the menopause.

PENNY PERRICK'S DIARY

Transport of delight across the Irish Sea

Conemara Ireland begins at Liverpool, or at least on the B & I (British and Irish) car ferry which nightly crosses the Irish Sea. For years, I used to spend the night on board in a bunk which throbbed with vibrations from the adjoining engine room, or, worse, wriggling on a recliner seat in a lounge awash in stale Guinness. Then I married a man who'd endured a spartan upbringing in a Methodist parsonage in Cornwall. To shake off the effects of this gloom start in life, he became an incomparable sybarite. Within minutes of boarding the boat, he discovered a row of boatdeck cabins reserved for the gentry. Now we travel in style in what looks like a miniature Ideal Home Exhibition stand, all bright primrose and fitted carpets. It's a ladylike way to cross the sea, but I raise the night life below deck, full of men clutching armfuls of duty-free Bailey's Irish Cream and men who look as if they could tell you what really happened to Shergar, had they a mind to.

organization called Women in the Home, says that you cannot expect Irish women to act like their starker European counterparts - having careers and husbands who can rustle up an excellent blanquette de veau - until traditional housing arrangements are drastically altered and Ireland is peppered with easy-care apartments instead of hard-core houses. She's right. The Irish women I know spend whole chunks of their lives in sagging cardigans and midsplattered wellies, pegging out an endless line of washing, carrying buckets of turf to the fire and cooking on primitive stoves. By the time their last child is grown, it's time for them to be caring for their first grandchild. Sometimes when the rain wets their newly dry washing and their stove smokes, I pity them but not, I suspect, as often as they pity me.

In Conemara, where the only studied glances that come my way are from the cows, I go through a transformation - hair cuts, eyes glow, spots vanish. Back in London, subject to heavy scrutiny, the process is reversed. Sometimes when the rain wets their newly dry washing and their stove smokes, I pity them but not, I suspect, as often as they pity me.



Today, I drove into the little grey town in the west, fourteen miles along the coast road. In the Conemara Marble Shop, they sold paperback copies of Molly Parkin's novels alongside earnest biographies of Douglas Hyde. I bought an English newspaper and an Irish magazine. The newspaper wrote about Michael Winner's battles with an overly-strict film censor and, on another page, had an article to the effect that virginity is good for you. The magazine carried a savagely disapproving article about the woman who chairs the Pro-life Amendment Campaign and a short story about a woman who didn't much like her baby. Cross-cultural influences at work here, I'd say.

Ireland is having a hard time in the EEC, which wants to drag her screaming and juggling into a world approved by London NW3. Constantly under fire by Eurocrats of the Hampstead persuasion is what is known as "our traditional Irish married life", in which the wife has a lot of children and the husband has a lot to drink. A very sensible woman, Nora Gillingham, of an

I am led down many stately corridors and then through an impressive wooden door marked "Ladies Underwear". Inside is a large sign: a sunbanned model in a pale blue bra from the autumn collection weaves her way around the desks at which sit grumpy men and frilly-browed women. None is distracted. Nor do they look up when I setze one of M & S's brand new lines, introduced by popular demand - a double D sized bra. Good grief, each cup would hold a week's groceries. My own physical problems seem puny indeed.

Funier still when M & S decide that the ill-fit of their tights is not because of any abnormality on the part of my legs. Graciously, they promise to let me test-run future samples hot off the production line and, gratefully, I scamper from St Michael House, before they decide to drag me off to their laboratories to check me for spillage, shrinkage and loss of colour.

Tomorrow Modern Times meets the night people - those who work while others sleep.

IN 1928 THEY SAID A DEPRESSION COULD NOT HAPPEN. CAN YOU BELIEVE THOSE SAME VOICES IN 1983 ... THE DOWNWAVE ROBERT BECKMAN

Over the last few years we've been told, again and again, that the road to economic recovery is just round the corner. Is it? Dare you continue to believe the so-called experts whose predictions have been so consistently proved wrong?

Robert Beckman believes you should not. Since 1979 his has been the lone voice warning that there is no meaningful proof whatsoever to support forecasts of economic recovery.

Now, in *The Downwave*, he spells it out with devastating frankness in a no-holds-barred guide to the upheaval that lies ahead. And he backs it all up with incontrovertible evidence, not all of it economic.

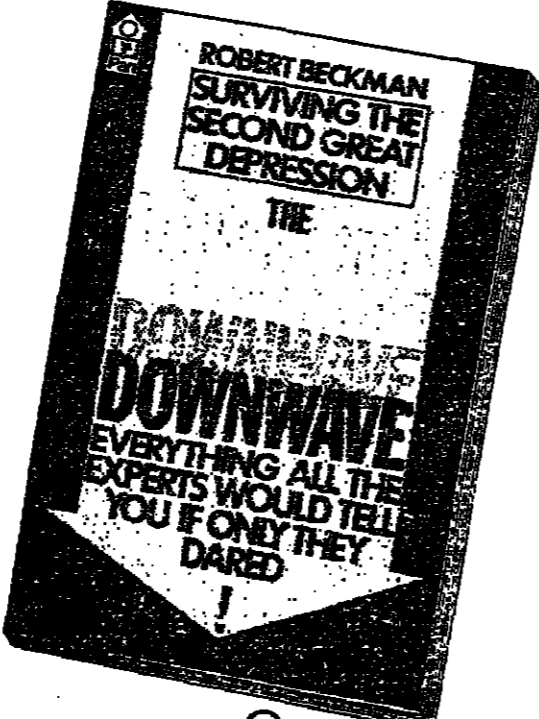
His message is simple but positive. You can survive the recession by using it. There are steps the man in the street can take to secure the future. There are opportunities that will never again occur in our lifetime. Beckman shows you the way.

His advice is backed by a successful track record of financial forecasting. Over the

Available now in bookshops throughout the country.

years Beckman has put his money where his mouth is and successfully demonstrated to many investors and members of the public how to stay one jump ahead. This advice is now offered to you in *The Downwave*.

The Downwave by Robert Beckman is everything the experts would tell you if only they dared. Can you afford to ignore it?



Pan Books

The solution to the great blue trout mystery



Shona Crawford Poole

The menu said blue trout in German. Not speaking more than six words of the language, blue trout and *wiener schnitzel* were the only dishes in the whole list I could even identify. No one in the neat, empty lakeside restaurant spoke English or French, so I pointed at the trout, called for a glass of wine and sat back to admire the view of snow-iced peaks posing above their own darker reflections.

Some considerable time later the waiter returned with a ceremonial assembly of domed silver dishes and jugs. With a flourish he lifted the largest dome to expose a whale of fish. Its skin did indeed have a curious blue bloom and, knowing no better at the time, I assumed that the fish grew like that in the deep lakes thereabouts. Well, there are brown trout and rainbow trout, so why not blue trout?

Of course I soon learned that this blue business is a piece of culinary artifice and that the skin of any fresh, unwashed trout can be made to turn blue before your very eyes. It is the natural slime, for want of a more appealing description, which changes colour when the fish is poached in an acidulated stock. Some recipes call for huge amounts of vinegar which are not only unnecessary, but spoil the taste of the fish. Lemon juice, or white wine will also do the trick. But you do need fresh, not frozen fish, and they should be handled as little as possible. Marks & Spencer's fresh farmed Scottish rainbow trout worked beautifully for this recipe and those which follow.

Our native brown trout caught in fast-flowing waters are highly prized. Farmed, usually rainbow, trout are not the most thrilling of fish though they are usually pretty enough in a sunbanned spotty sort of way. But however fresh farmed fish is, its unathletic lifestyle or some other aspect of its super-controlled existence, produces flesh which is softer and has less tone and taste than that of a wild fish.

The best fish call for the simplest of cooking methods - frying in butter or grilling over wood. Farmed trout or any that have been frozen repay a little extra care.

- 30g (1 oz) butter
- 4 tablespoons seasoned flour
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons chopped chives or parsley to garnish

Gut the fish, cut off the fins and wash and dry them. Cut the bacon in dice or narrow strips and put them in a cold frying pan. Heat slowly and steadily until the fat runs and the bacon is cooked and beginning to crisp. Then add the butter.

Coat the fish with the seasoned flour and add them to pan. Cook them for about five minutes on each side, turning carefully only once. Lift the fish from the pan and arrange them on a warm serving dish. Drain the bacon and sprinkle it over the fish. Keep warm.

Fry the garlic briefly in the fat remaining in the pan. Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the vinegar. Pour the sauce immediately over the fish and serve with a sprinkling of chopped chives or parsley and plainly boiled new or old potatoes.

Nuts and trout are another well tried combination. Usually sliced almonds or hazel nuts are fried golden brown in butter after the fish has been sautéed, and the nuts then sprinkled over the fish. But the nuts can also be used to coat the fish before baking them.

Baked trout with almonds Serves four 4 plump trout 55g (2 oz) butter, melted 110g (4 oz) almonds, very finely chopped or coarsely ground Salt and freshly ground black pepper 1 lemon

Gut the fish, cut off the fins, and wash and dry them. Paint the fish with melted butter and coat them in the chopped or ground almonds. Season them lightly and lay them in one layer in a well buttered baking dish. Spoon any remaining melted butter over them.

Cook the trout in a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F gas mark 4) for about 20 minutes. Serve immediately from the baking dish with a freshly cut wedge of lemon to squeeze over them.

Trout with bacon Serves four 4 plump trout 225g (8 oz) smoked bacon, lean and fat

TALKBACK

Delius unsullied

From J. R. Heron, Consultant Neurologist, North Staffordshire Hospital Centre, Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent. Dr Thomas Stuttaford (Medical Briefing, March 18) quotes from Professor Southall who was shown Sir John Coneybear's case notes, indicating that the negative blood WR test for syphilis - the absence of involvement of the dorsal columns of the spinal cord, the absence of dementia, and Sir John's own expert opinion - are all strong evidence that Delius's final illness was not due to syphilis.

A further indication that this illness was not due to acquired syphilis is that his father was known to have suffered from a similar disease, years previously. In the nineteenth century and early twentieth century relatively obscure hereditary or sporadic spinocerebellar degenerations and demyelinating diseases of the central nervous system, of unknown aetiology, were not uncommonly and understandably, wrongly diagnosed as being due to syphilis.

A careful appraisal of Sir John Coneybear's case notes on Delius would certainly offer the best, and only satisfactory evidence on which to base a final and informed conclusion.

DIY cures

From Daniele Ryman, Director, Marguerite Maury, Aromatherapy, Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, W.1.

Like Dr Linda A. Anderson and Dr J. D. Prilligan (Letters March 26), I read the Modern Times column "Turning to the quack" (March 24) with concern. What I particularly find alarming is the implication of self-prescription. I have come across several cases where the essential oils from sage and rosemary can, through the wrong dosage, cause epileptic fits. Another example is the essential oil of camphor, in particular the cheap variety from Japan which can be toxic. This is recommended for colds and coughs.

What I would therefore suggest is that these natural remedies be administered by experienced practitioners. A list of these can be obtained from the Institute of Complementary Medicine, 21 Portland Place, London W.1.

SPECTRUM

The British festival opening in New York today is reviving the enthusiasm of the Beatle era

British arts bite into the Apple

By Christopher Thomas

Even New York is dazzled by it all. The greatest outpouring of British culture ever to go abroad is spending the hot, steaming summer in America's greatest city in a fabulous display of art, dance, theatre, music and sport.

A random selection of exhibits gives the flavour: the Guggenheim Museum will stage an exhibition focusing on British art from 1930 to the present, featuring works from Francis Bacon, Ben Nicholson, Henry Moore, Richard Hamilton and others.

More than 3,000 London Transport posters dating from 1908 will be on display, as will some exceptional English silver drawn from the Victoria and Albert Museum, the National Trust and private collections.

Perhaps the most spectacular event to open in the next couple of days, however, is one entitled "Constable's England", the first major exhibition of John Constable's work in America in more than 30 years.

Another exhibition features "The Best in British Graphic Art and Photography", while the festival's eclectic nature will be indicated by a display, at the American Museum of Natural History, of the types of plants that Captain Cook took home from his voyage of botanical exploration between 1768 and 1771.

But there are more than just mainline attractions. Winston Churchill will be honoured with the first one-man show of his paintings in America, there will be a display of contemporary jewelry by leading designers, and a collection of brass rubbings will be on display.



Participants in the British salute to New York during the coming months include Claudio Abbado (above left), conducting the London Symphony Orchestra; Harriet Walter and John Franklyn-Robbins (above centre) as Helena and the King of France in the Royal Shakespeare Company's All's Well that Ends Well; Sir Hugh Casson (above left), the festival's artistic director; the jazz composer Mike Westbrook (below left), whose Brass Band will re-export the music to the country of its birth; and the members of the Royal Ballet, whose repertoire on tour will include Dances of Albion

The whole huge extravaganza was conceived in an airliner 25,000 feet above the Atlantic, where David Lloyd-Jacob was thinking about the little hiccup in Anglo-American relations that occurred 200 years ago.

And so it all began. The corporate giants began falling over themselves to get involved, to sponsor something, to act as a host, to lend their names.

It starts officially today with a black-tie reception at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, an appropriate setting for the greatest foreign cultural and arts festival ever staged in the United States.

Further into this dazzling catalogue of culture, there will be a major retrospective of Henry Moore, consisting of some giant bronze sculptures as well as smaller works. Transporting that lot has cost Gould Inc, an electronics business, the best part of \$800,000, the biggest single contribution of the festival.

As a whole, the jamboree is costing something between \$3m and \$4m, not a penny of which has come from the taxpayers of America or Britain.

David Lloyd-Jacob is the retired chairman of the Amcon Group Inc, a British mining equipment company that has had its headquarters in New York since 1907. He spent a long time thinking about the prospects for an arts festival during his many trips across

the Atlantic. "Our two countries have a co-conspirator relationship in so many fields, especially culture," he said.

Mike Westbrook, possibly the most prominent British jazz composer, will be in town with his six-piece brass band, playing his settings of William Blake, and in the theatre the range is enormous, including performances in halls and hotels by the Black Theatre Cooperative, the Brighton Theatre Company, The Eye and Ear Theatre, the Moving Picture Mime Show and many others.

So it goes on, something like 200 events in the entertainment halls and museums of America's cultural capital. So great is the quantity on offer, and so rich its quality, that the undertaking seems almost arrogant: one really should not be so bold in somebody else's house, even though the hosts seem not to mind a bit.

There was also the Earl Jermyn, who spends as much time in New York as is permitted to a registered resident of Nassau and Monté Carlo who was described as "dandified" - a coronet stickpin adorns his tie. He had much to say about a subject with which he should be highly familiar: "The naivety of the English aristocracy is incredible. They take advice from the old family lawyer who is interested in keeping things as they always were. They have

no spending power, they're land heavy, and in the end they go broke."

Edwina Sandys, appearing under the headline "We Happy Few", a profile of 11 New York Brits, ventured: "English people who come here all want to achieve things. It's like Dick Whittington - streets paved with gold." She is heavily involved in organizing the festival: two telephones ring remorselessly in her Manhattan apartment, where her own spectacular works look down from a high wall on to a chaotic but friendly scene.

One of the first official functions of the festival was that night - a reception at the Algonquin, the most British hotel in New York as well as the one enjoying the closest links with the worlds of literature and the arts. Entertainment was supplied by Millicent Martin. There will be a lot more of that sort of thing in the coming months.

Organising the event has, at times, evidently been an agonizing process.

One early complication occurred when the Central Park authorities got cold feet over plans for a pop concert. Then the featured group, Queen, received a lucrative offer from elsewhere and took off to the bank. There will, however, be a rock concert at Madison Square Garden on April 25, although the star attraction has yet to be nominated.

The names connected with the event are weighty indeed, starting at the top: the festival's patrons are Prince Charles and Nancy Reagan. Inevitably, there is excited speculation around town about a visit from the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Fuelling the gossip, the Prince has put his signature to a full-page message in a glossy magazine supplement in the New York Times, wherein he gives no hints of any plans to come to the ballet but does make mention of a distant relative: "It is more than 300 years since the 30-year-old brother of King Charles II took possession of the city, which he promptly renamed, with no great modesty, after himself."

Modesty has no part in this festival. Britain is showing off, bragging with all its might in a great display of resources from the past and of the present. It is amusing that we continue to insist that it is we who are saluting them. It begins to look rather like the other way around.

Tokyo Japanese schools have traditionally been halls of order and decorum, and the students - boys garbed in black military-style jackets and girls in sailor suit uniforms - models of dedication and obedience. But a series of violent incidents involving teenagers has prompted the Education Ministry to establish a task force to study the problem and to recommend corrective measures.

In addition, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has promised that finding ways to deal with violence in schools will be one of the priorities of his Cabinet. But neither the Prime Minister nor the Education Ministry has indicated what actions might be taken.

Since late January there have been more than a dozen cases of violence by students, both inside and outside the classroom, that were widely reported in the Japanese press, which carried references to the blackboard jungle.

Though the number of cases was small, the cruelty of some of the young people involved made them the subject of national attention and concern.

For example, in early February a gang of teenage boys beat up a number of vagrants in Yokohama, in an incident described as a sadistic orgy by the English-language Japan Times. Three of the victims died from their injuries.

In another case, a 14-year-old girl in a school in Kisarazu, a city near Tokyo, was beaten with a bamboo sword for three hours by a dozen of her classmates. The assailants came from affluent families and had no previous records of delinquency.

At a Tokyo junior high school, four boys ganged up on one of their 14-year-old classmates and physically abused him. In another case, a physically handicapped teacher in Tokyo stabbed a student with a fruit knife, after being harassed and attacked for weeks by a group of boys.

Steve Lohr reports on the rising level of violence within a high-pressure education system

Japan's blackboard jungle

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In Japan, a culturally and ethnically homogeneous nation with the most equitable distribution of income among the major industrialized countries, juvenile delinquency is still much less prevalent than, say, in Britain or the United States.

Yet school violence has increased sharply in recent years. Teachers say the problem first emerged about 10 years ago and has worsened steadily.

According to the National Police Agency, violent incidents involving junior and senior high school students on school premises totalled 1,961 last year, or 60 per cent more than the number three years earlier. There were 8,904 victims and 4,267 assailants, mostly students aged 14 and 15.

The police agency also reported that the number of cases of violence by junior and senior high school students against teachers reached 843 last year, four and a half times the number in 1978, when the police began counting such cases.

The high-pressure, cramming education is one of the biggest reasons for school violence, said Michio Nagai, a former Education Minister and a professor of educational sociology at Sophia University. "There's no question about it."

Of the recent incidents, Takuji Kimura, a 16-year-old high school student in Tokyo, said: "I was not surprised. I and many others share a sense of frustration with the system and for teachers. But the majority of us would never do violent things because it would ruin one's future."

Even on good students like Kimura, the pressure takes its toll. "About three months before my entrance examination for high school," he recalled, "I started to get a stomach ache whenever I came across a question I could not solve."

The trouble has prompted public criticism of the weak points of the Japanese education system, a system often praised for its strengths.

These strengths are considerable. The centralized, lock-step approach has high standards in such basic skills as mathematics, language and engineering. The resulting high literacy rate and technical competence of its population receives much of the credit for Japan's ability to have achieved high economic growth since the Second World War.

individualistic values of the west, are thus more likely to rebel against a system of uniform education that stresses learning by rote, education officials say.

In the Japanese system, the personal costs for the students in terms of pressure, anxiety and childhoods with limited play seem high. The entrance examinations for high school and then college are all important. The competition to prepare for the tests has become increasingly intense in recent years. With fewer children and higher incomes, more families can afford to send their offspring to the night schools that students attend after their regular classes to cram for exams.

Regardless of test scores, all students attend some high school and most can get into some university. Yet in Japan's ordered society, one's educational pedigree marks an individual for life, determining his job and social status to a far greater degree than in the United States.

Every year there are saturated with the idea that to go to a first-rank university leads to a job in a big company and that leads to a happy life, said Tamiko Kikuchi, a Yokohama woman with a child in the third grade.

Accordingly, every possible effort is directed at getting high scores on the exams. Many Japanese mothers are called education mamas, who not only encourage and prod but, when their children are ill, will go notebook in hand to attend the classes themselves to make sure young Kenji or Junko does not slip behind.

Every year there are students who, unable to bear the pressure, commit suicide before the exams or, more often, take their lives after receiving disappointing marks. In 1981, 1,777 people aged 24 and under committed suicide in Japan.

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All education systems, Japanese teaching experts note, both qualify students for life by teaching them useful skills and classify them for life by acting as a social sorting system. But in Japan, many say, there is too much emphasis on classification based on narrow criteria.

But the accent will be on fun as well, and the team who produce the puzzles and riddles that now occupy so much of the Radio Times will be on show in the busking area in Covent Garden, where they will give a

display of sensational anagrams and brain-teasers, culminating in a march-past by the BBC's own house-trained pallidromes and a parachute descent by Roger Woodis, who will compose a new verse for the occasion as he falls.

The ever-popular Radio Times letters unit will put on a demonstration in Hyde Park (not Wales, Scotland or the regions) of dismantling a programme and putting it together again in one and a half minutes as the viewers would like it. Members of the public will also be able to put their complaints to the Deputy Head of Heavy Entertainment in person; he unfortunately will not be able to attend, as he has been sent on attachment to Aberdeen, but there will be a personal tape recording of his answer. "While we accept your criticisms in full, we feel that we know much better than you and that the programme was perfect in every way. Next, please."

For those who like to see behind the scenes, the BBC-TV Railway Film Unit are demonstrating some of the techniques used in their next epic series, Great Railway Sidings of The World, while Top of the Pops will be showing just what happens during the four days necessary to train an average TOTP audience (the groups themselves, of course, just turn up and mime). David Attenborough will this week be looking for rare insects in Brunel, Iceland, Hawaii and Mauritius, so if you happen to be in the area, he says why not drop in and help him have a look or bring your own insects if you've got any? Jolly good.

MOREOVER... Miles Kington

This week sees the reappearance of the Radio Times, after an absence bravely borne, and the BBC has declared tomorrow a day of national rejoicing.

There will, of course, be a service of thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral, attended by all 92 BBC governors (or those that have survived the absence of the Radio Times), and broadcast live on Radio 4 and BBC2 (see daily newspapers and Time Out for full details). It is hoped that the Queen will be able to attend; if not, her place will be taken by the Assistant Head of Religious and Monarchic Outside Broadcasts, or Queeny for short.

At St John's-in-the-Red there will be a pulp debate which should arouse a lot of public interest, between the editor of the Radio Times and a senior producer at BBC-TV. The text of this public discussion will be "How on earth, by all that is holy, is it possible to commission four pages of feature writing on a new series and not mention the programme once, only the private life of the actors concerned?" No-one expects to hear an answer to this perennial problem in our lifetime, but the debate should be lively.

Equally solemnly, there will be a procession to the Tomb of the Unknown Composer, who is responsible for so much of Radio 3's output. Wreaths will be laid by the Baroque Society, the Friends of French Opera Operatives, the Society for the Preservation of Rural English Songwriters and CAMRA (the Campaign for Rare Albion). There will then be a performance of the song-cycle "On Warlock Edge" and six concerti grossi by Galtieri. They will then be played again at the right speed.

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Finally, if the absence of the Radio Times forced you to miss the historic programme in which Richard Attenborough accepted the nomination for the Eurovision Song Contest of his new number, "My Passive Resistance is Low", rest assured that it will soon be repeated.

As the new Radio Times does not start till Saturday, here is a brief resumé of programmes till then. Radio 1, as Radio 2, Radio 2, as Radio 1. Radio 3, music. Radio 4, talk; BBC-1, final episode of I Love Parus in the Springtime. BBC-2, the Dimbleby Snooker Finals. John Pilger v "Hurricane" Thatcher.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 37)

ACROSS: 1 Food shortage (6); 4 Soggy (6); 7 Number (4); 8 Cosmos (8); 9 Fish (3); 12 Noddy (3); 15 Eye-piece (6); 16 Obsolete (6); 17 Digi (3); 19 Extra large (4,4); 24 Court-martial (8); 25 Level (4); 26 Bird of prey; 27 Limited (6). DOWN: 1 Store (4); 2 Small object (9); 3 Evolve (5); 4 Propel (5); 5 Baking place (4); 6 Mail (5); 10 Aptitude (5); 11 French king (5); 12 Fraud (9); 13 Harbour (4); 14 Not hard (4); 18 Iris (5); 20 Aloofly (5); 21 Immaculate (5); 22 Chieftain (4); 23 Pack (4). SOLUTION TO No 36: ACROSS: 1 Asides 5; Sica 8; Aphid 9; Outside 11; Publicity 13; Role 15; Confidant 18; Lace 19; Inactivity 22; Emptier 23; Total 24; Steve 25; Peppery 26; DOWN: 2 Sahib 3; Dad 4; Shoulder strap 5; Sine 6; Uniform 7; Happy 10; Ewer 12; Info 14; Odds 15; Cockpit 16; Slew 17; Cycle 20; Altar 21; Wine 23; Tap

مكتبة النور

THE TIMES DIARY

Leg spinner

One of the ironies of the Australian prime minister's campaign against sporting links with South Africa is that Bob Hawke's life was once saved by a Springbok cricketer, touring Australia 31 years ago. It happened at Perth University where Hawke, as a student, did sparazime gardening for cash. One of his legs was caught in the wheel of a horse-drawn cart, and his thigh was badly torn when the horse bolted. Roy McLean, a South African batsman, and the late Ken Viljoen, Springbok tour manager, who were in Perth for the first match of the 1952-53 tour, rushed to Hawke's aid. Viljoen used McLean's shirt as a tourniquet while the batsman called an ambulance. Hawke later wrote to McLean to thank him for "saving my life". Incidentally, I notice that Hawke is now seeking a butler for his official residence in Canberra. The pay is £310 a week, but only suitably experienced and qualified candidates need apply. I wonder what that means.

Hairy

One incident from the royal progress through Australia has not previously been broken surface in this country, though it is a favourite among antipodean reporters assigned to the tour. During a walkabout in South Australia, the Princess of Wales made, as usual, for the kiddies and parted one tush-headed mite on the head. "And why aren't you in school today?" she inquired. "I was sent home, miss," the urchin replied, "because I've got head lice."

Book of the film

Like the Yanks, the bookies took a pasting on the Oscars. Esal Book-makers, who offered the first British book on the academy awards, lost a total of £80,000 on *Gandhi's* triumph. They dropped £52,000 on its selection as best film, and £20,000 on Ben Kingsley's success as best actor. Oddly, no one backed Sir Richard Attenborough to lift the best director award. Undaunted, the bookies are looking to recoup their losses. Already the odds against a British film completing the hat-trick next year are only a stingy 2-1.

Here is a sentence from a London Marathon press release which I guarantee will make cyclists and motorist fume: "To ensure smooth running for Marathon entrants, engineers are now filling the holes in the roads along the route".

Proms to pit

It came as a surprise even to the management at Sadler's Wells this week to discover that the pianist in the orchestra pit to accompany the dancing of the Joyce Trisler Dens Company is Yvonne Seow, better known as a successful concert player. In 1974 he won the BBC piano competition as youngest ever competitor, and he has played several televised Promenade concerts since. Not only is this the first time Seow has played for dancers, it is also the first time the dancers have worked to live accompaniment. Seow, who took the job partly for the challenge of tackling Hindemith's *Four Temperaments*, is beneficiary of the Musicians' Union's stern attitude to the use of tape recordings at live performances.

Waste not

I have struck a rich vein in the matter of toilet time reading. After digging on the subject, here is Lord Chesterfield's advice to his son, quoted by Roy Porter in *English Society in the 18th Century* and forwarded to me by the vicar of Wadley, Sheffield: "I knew a gentleman who was so good a manager of his time, that he would not even lose that small portion of it which calls of nature obliged him to pass in the necessary use, but gradually through all the Latin poets in those moments. He bought, for example, a common edition of Horace, of which he tore off gradually a couple of pages, carried them with him to that necessary place, read them first and sent them down as a sacrifice to Cloacina; that was so much time fairly gained, and I recommend you to follow his example... it will make any book which you shall read in that manner very present in your mind." Especially, of course, if it blocks the drains.

A correction circulated by the Birmingham Association of University Teachers says: "An unfortunate, if not entirely inappropriate, misprint has crept in... Nominations for the new National Women's Advisory Committee should, of course, be accompanied by brief biographical notes, and not by brief biological notes."

A Conservative councillor in Lambeth is calling for the borough's teeming pigeon population to be fed chemostartants, which is the more surprising since the councillor's name is Dickie Bird. Objectors to his scheme are not much on the side of the pigeons, but favour shooting and trapping instead. Marksmen visit Waterloo station twice a year, early on Sunday mornings, to pop off some of the pestiferous birds. The trouble with feeding, sterilising agents to the pigeons, it is said, is that their breeding season is so long there is nothing strong enough to stop them producing a clutch of squabbling squabs in the end.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

A woman's place is in the House, or is it?

I learn (from an article by the Prime Minister's daughter, no less) of an organization called "The 300 Group", that being the number of women MPs the outfit is determined to see elected, on the ground that since women constitute half the population it is only just and fitting that they should be represented in Parliament by their own sex in the same proportion.

My first instinct, when I read this news, was to go back to bed and pull the bedclothes up over my head, so that the neighbours should not be disturbed by my moans. My second instinct was to feel that the question is not quite so simple as that. What my third and deciding instinct will be I have not yet discovered, and I hope to do so in the course of this column.

Let us take first the thought that the ladies of The 300 Group are barking up a non sequitur of massive dimensions, a view which has much to commend it. Parliament exists to represent the political will of the country; it is organized into parties because it is only through party that that will can be channelled into a choice for the electorate. Both halves of this proposition are crude and imperfect, but they are the best we can do, and I know of no free country that denies either.

It follows that the selection of an MP is a political process. Of course, that is not entirely so, any more than the system itself is entirely perfect, but it is the ultimate aim, and cannot be otherwise if our system is to work at all.

But what is political about the fact of gender? (The attitudes to gender, and the effect of those attitudes, constitute another question, which I shall come to in a moment.) In what way is a woman MP politically different, solely because of her sex, from a male one? For the life of me, I cannot see any answer to that question other than nonsense (which I trust The 300 Group itself would repudiate) like the argument that women would bring a gentler touch to politics, would persuade the hostile man-led powers to lay down their masculine arms, would use "feminine intuition" to solve the problems of inflation, unemployment and Northern Ireland. All such arguments patronize and diminish women, rather than respecting and enhancing them, and I trust that no serious supporter of equality for women would embrace them (the arguments, that is).

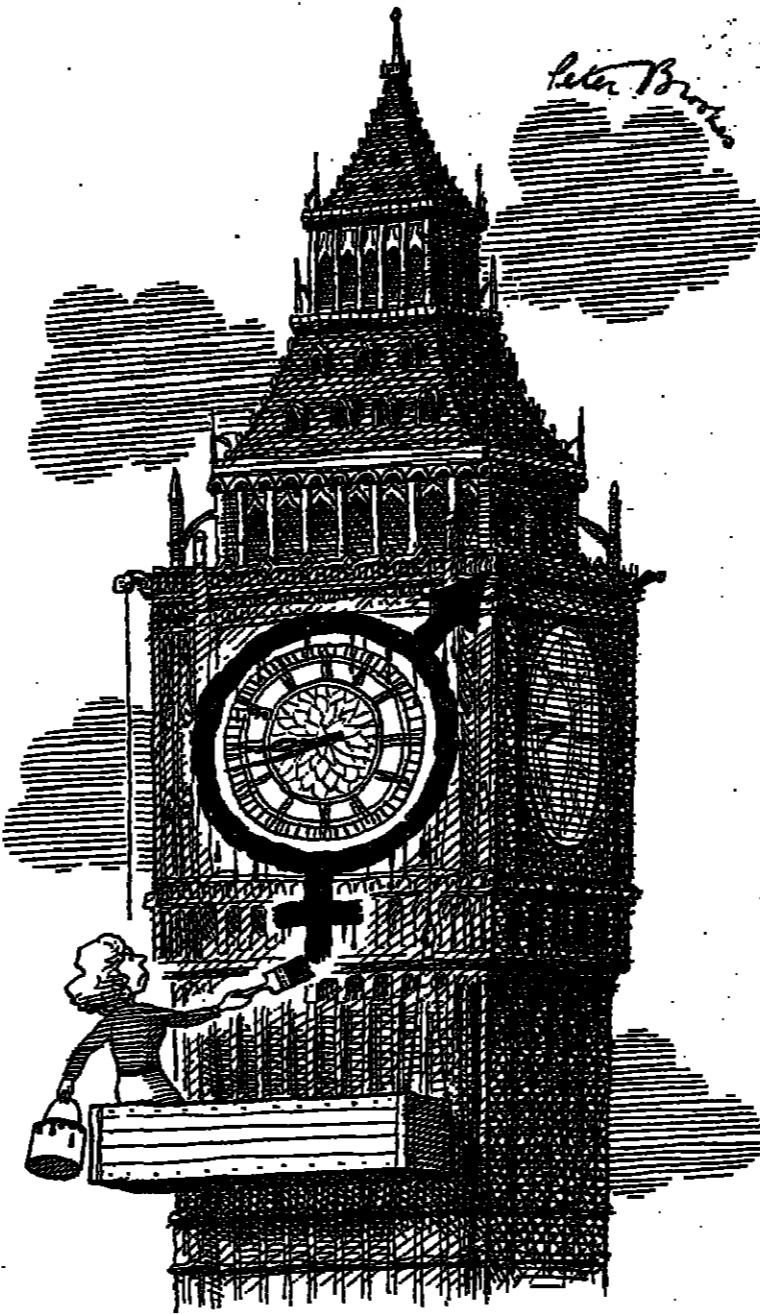
If women, solely because of their numbers, ought to be half of Parliament, what about homosexuals? I don't know what the latest imaginary figure for the proportion of homosexuals in the population is supposed to be - I last saw it passing

the 20 per cent mark and for all I know it may be approaching 120 by now - but if sex is to decide the way we elect our MPs the "third sex" can surely claim treatment as fair as that which is to be meted out to women when The 300 Group has its way. And what about race, religion, and other important qualifications? There is a real case to be made out, if we are going to abandon the purely political nature of candidate selection, for a fixed proportion (indexed to allow for changes in the population) of coloured MPs, Jewish MPs, disabled MPs, drunker MPs (already, as a matter of fact, represented far more numerously than their boozier brothers and sisters in the population at large) and mad MPs.

I believe I was the first commentator on public affairs to campaign publicly for Mrs Thatcher's election as Leader of the Conservative Party. (I learned on that occasion, incidentally, that the women's movement in this country is largely bogus, instead of supporting her, and hailing her election when it was won, on the ground that this represented a giant advance for their sex irrespective of her politics, they foamed with rage because she was a Tory, and could not conceal their chagrin when her male colleagues chose her.) But I wanted her to win, as I wanted her to win the subsequent general election, not because it was time we had a woman party leader and Prime Minister, but because I thought she was the best candidate for both offices. No one now argues (I predicted this effect, and the speed with which it took place) for or against Mrs Thatcher because she is a woman; they admire or detest her policies, her character, her attitudes, and so they should. But what, then, is so different about women MPs who are not Prime Ministers? Why should they be selected on a principle that all can see is untenable in the case of Mrs T?

At this point I must put my head out, very cautiously, from under the bedclothes. There is no doubt that women are discriminated against, by those charged with the selection of Tory and Labour parliamentary candidates (and I do not believe the Alliance is really any better), and that they are discriminated against because they are women.

This is illogical and unfair; it also lowers the quality of Parliament, in that, whenever a better candidate is passed over for a worse, Parliament (and we) lose something valuable, and it seems to me clear that worse candidates are preferred to better ones only, in general, when the better is a woman. The result of this discrimination can be seen in the numbers of women who sit in the



House of Commons at this moment, not many more than 20; I am unable to believe that all of the women who went forward for candidatures only this year were more qualified than their male rivals, or for that matter that those who did not even get on to the short list were inferior to all the men who did.

What can we do about it? Obviously, only one thing: change attitudes. How best can we change attitudes? I am not one of those who think that since legislation cannot itself make us virtuous, it should never be employed where virtue is required; the legal prohibition against discrimination on a basis of colour will not rapidly stop people hating or despising those of darker hue than themselves, but it will stop hoteliers hanging out signs saying "No niggers here", and who will deny that that is a gain of sorts?

Unfortunately, the problem under discussion is not amenable to legislation; but even the most fanatical member of the 300 Group (I take it) would advocate a law obliging half the constituency parties in the country to choose women candidates for Parliament, and, as I have made clear, I think that it would be a bad idea if such a law could be passed, since however unfair the existing discrimination is, choosing political candidates for non-political reasons would still be disastrously wrong. (And it is, after

all, exactly what the discriminators do.)

What all sensible people want, surely, is the selection of the best candidates. That can never be fully achieved, but it is a goal to strive for, and meanwhile it can be approached one step at a time. Moreover, it can only be approached one step at a time. And since the leaders of all the parties are unable, whatever their private opinions, to do anything in public but urge the end of this discrimination, the first step could and should be a vigorous campaign of exhortation (and, if necessary, threat) on the part of our political leaders, directed at their own political followers. (The Tories, with a woman Prime Minister, have less excuse than their opponents, though the Labour Party has an extra handicap in the implacably discriminatory nature of the unions.)

Let it be clear, though, that the thrust of any such campaign is against discrimination, not in favour of the kind of principle espoused by the 300 Group. What, after all, would its members do if they fully achieved their object, so that half the members of the House of Commons were women, and then found that in all the constituencies of the other half there was a woman candidate much better qualified than any of the men?

David Hewson Gandhi: the even bigger prize

The *Gandhi* bandwagon has been rolling towards an Oscar success for months. Sir Richard Attenborough's film may not have been pushed with the overwhelming Hollywood razzmatazz of some of its rivals, but it was helped by a very British publicity campaign, quiet without being self-effacing, modest, and brimming over with integrity, very much like the picture itself.

It would be a mistake to assume, however, that *Gandhi's* prizes, following as they do, the unexpected win of the best picture award by *Chariots of Fire* last year, spell some form of inevitable recovery for the British film industry. The domestic publicity machine will undoubtedly work overtime in the next few days, much of it aimed at Mr Iain Sproat, the minister who is about to reshape much of the business. It will demand extra tax concessions, levies on the showing of films on television, and more funds for the state-sponsored National Film Finance Corporation.

What will be missing from the clamour is one single truth behind the decline of British cinema - that the film business started to hit the rocks when it began to make films which the public did not want to see. *Gandhi's* Oscars may well do wonders for Goldcrest, the company which made it, but it does not alter the basic fact that an industry that has lost its umbilical cord to public taste can only stagnate. Britain is still a long way from re-establishing a cycle of domestic film production in which an average budget film stands a reasonable chance of recouping its costs.

Last year, according to *Screen International*, 51 major films were made in Britain or by British film units, compared with 24 in 1981. With cinema audiences tumbling, except for major hits like *Gandhi* and *E.T.*, few are likely to show a profit, or convince any foreign distributor of a resurgence in British cinema.

The record of the National Film Finance Corporation has been particularly disappointing. Backed by money from the Eady Levy, the tax on cinema admissions, the NFFC has produced a series of flops, the most disappointing of which was Lindsay Anderson's return to filmmaking, *Brianna Hospital*.

When the results of Mr Sproat's review become known in the next few weeks, it seems likely that the NFFC and the Eady Levy may be ended.

Both actions would be interpreted as an attack on the film industry by those who believe the Government should positively encourage our film-makers.

No one has yet explained adequately why the cinema industry is more deserving of favourable treatment than, say, makers of ball bearings, who may offer steadier employment for more people.

But this should not disguise the fact that there are anomalies in the

Government's attitude towards the cinema. The most obvious is the way in which departmental responsibility for crucially related matters such as cable television, cinema industry training and film policy itself is split between the Home Office, the Department of Trade and the Department of Education and Science.

This is an anachronism and a nuisance, but it does not prevent anyone making a feature film. Only a lack of finance does that, and given some of the spectacular excesses of the British film business in recent years, investors cannot be blamed for putting their money elsewhere.

Far too often, would-be backers have discovered, to their cost, that unreality exists in both sides of the cameras. Production expertise, financial management, and accurate accounting are skills which have often been absent, probably because they were thought inferior to creative talent.

What is, perhaps, most remarkable about *Gandhi* is that after 20 years of Attenborough's efforts, anyone stumped up the cash for the venture. It was James Lee, Goldcrest's chairman and chief executive of its parent, Pearson Longman, who nudged Pearson away from its more conventional interests - the *Financial Times* and Penguin Books - towards films at a time when the rest of the City was watching Lord Grade's ACC pour millions down the drain on flops like *Raise the Titanic*.

Goldcrest's interests have been unashamedly commercial. It has dug deep into its reserves to hire figures it views as the brightest talents around - Putnam, Barry Hanson, who produced *The Long Good Friday*, and former Thames TV head Mike Wooller - and concentrated on making intelligent, popular pictures. Like any other company, it lives or dies by the quality of its output.

Compare this with the elitist, little-seen films of the NFFC, where profits are preferable to losses, but not essential, and one confronts the conflict between the old, cloying British cinema of subsidies, intervention and direction by the good and great, and the promise of a more vigorous cinema, where that subtle relationship between public taste and a producer's skill resumes its cardinal importance.

While one may argue about *Gandhi's* artistic merits over its rivals, the very fact that it was financed at all, after so many years of Attenborough's fruitless searching, depended more on Pearson Longman's changing nature than the quality of the subject. What it has proved is a truism the British film business ought to take to heart: attracts audiences and acclaim. What *Gandhi* does not offer is a miracle ingredient to solve a sorry film industry's ills.

Brian Crozier

When no deal is the best deal

Pactis is the special professional malady of foreign ministries and of career diplomats: the notion that any agreement is better than none.

Whether the agreement (accord, pact, treaty, convention, protocol) is intrinsically good or bad is professionally of secondary importance. The pact is the thing.

To be fair, an agreement between friends or natural associates is good, more often than not. The North Atlantic Treaty, for instance, was good, meeting the need for collective defence against Stalin.

Even the Treaty of Rome had its good points, though it would have been better if the insular British had not boycotted the Messina conference of 1955 and had helped to shape a treaty more consistent with Britain's interests, instead of leaving it to the French to make the running.

Where pactis is dangerous is in negotiations with an ideological or political adversary, who regards negotiations as a continuation of war by other means, or as reflections by the bellicose statements of Marshal Kulikov at the latest meeting of the Warsaw Pact, of which he is commander-in-chief. His words were ostensibly addressed to President Reagan, but in reality to the "peace" demonstrators in the West, who need a good anti-American scare every now and then. He sounded awfully like Khrushchev 20 years ago, boasting: "We will bury you!"

Nothing, of course, could be more desirable than a US-Soviet pact on intermediate-range missiles in Europe, or for that matter on the intercontinental monsters - but only if the outcome preserved or restored the nuclear balance on which peace depends, as the case may be, and only if the pact made adequate provision for inspection. The spy-in-the-sky does not see everything. A pact for the sake of reassuring CND would be terrifying.

In fact, all conflicts involving ideological adversaries are soluble if one is prepared to give the adversary what he wants. Neville Chamberlain and Edouard Daladier reached agreement with Hitler at Munich by the simple expedient of giving him Czechoslovakia. Chamberlain thought this piece of paper had bought "peace in our time". He was, putting it minimally, wrong.

The late Pierre Mendes-France reached agreement with ideological adversaries at Geneva in July 1954, winning a bet that he would bring peace to Indochina within a month,

or resign as Premier. The clocks, it is said, were stopped in the Palais des Nations to enable him to make his deadline.

The agreement marked France's recognition of defeat, and Mendes-France even managed to deny his real adversary, Ho Chi Minh, the whole of the prize he coveted (both North and South Vietnam) by swapping the partition of Vietnam against an undertaking to Molotov that he (Mendes-France) would allow the proposal for a European Defence Community (EDC) to die in the French Assembly. Which duly happened.

Similarly, Henry Kissinger thought he had achieved "peace with honour" in Paris in January 1973, enabling the Americans to pull out of Vietnam. Two years later the communist forces overran South Vietnam (whose own forces had been denied ammunition by the US Congress), and Ho Chi Minh had his posthumous triumph.

Perhaps the classic case of a bad agreement hailed at the time as a diplomatic triumph was the Geneva pact on Laos, in July 1962. With what infinite patience, skill and good humour did that delightful man, the late Malcolm MacDonald, manage to persuade the neutralist and anti-communist factions to join the communists in a government of national unity. The predictable delayed outcome was that the communists made a meal of their temporary partners.

Palestine could well be one of the bad agreements still to be reached. Mrs Thatcher's refusal to play host to the PLO shows her awareness of the potential danger of handing that unfortunate territory and its people to a group of terrorists who were adopted by the Soviet Union in 1974 as a potential instrument of its foreign policy. To what extent they remain one after their dispersal from Lebanon and after the Russians had failed to lift a finger to defend them against the Israeli incursion does, however, need to be clarified.

Another bad agreement of the avoidable future could be a settlement of the Namibian problem. The kind of agreement I have in mind would be one that gave control over South-West Africa to that other surrogate of the Soviet Union, Swapo. In no time, Admiral Gorbachev would be setting up a naval base in what is now the South African enclave of Walvis Bay, and threatening to undo some of the good of our Falklands victory. My fingers are firmly crossed.

Blood on a black spot



Before the final terror: Sani Mkhize with white anti-apartheid campaigners. Two weeks later he was shot.

Mr R. A. F. Swart: And if they do not wish to be moved? The Minister (Dr Piet Koopman): Then we try to discuss it with them, and we try to get them to participate. I am on record as saying that we want to get away as far as is practicable and possible from forced removals. (From the Hansard record of a debate in the House of Assembly in Cape Town on February 11, on the uprooting of black communities.)

Johannesburg Saul Mkhize will be buried on Saturday in a plot behind his family home, a walled enclosure of solid one-storey thatched huts built from stones handcut by his grandfather more than 70 years ago. He died because he wanted to go on living where his father and grandfather had lived and died and been buried before him. Even in death the apartheid ideologues might still pursue him to seize and re-inter his bones.

On Easter Saturday Mr Mkhize called a meeting in the yard of the primary school at Driefontein, in the wooded, undulating countryside of the south-eastern Transvaal close to the border with Swaziland. He had intended to discuss a petition he had drafted protesting against the Government's plan to resettle the village's 5,000 or more inhabitants in tribal reserves.

The draft of the petition read in part: "We and our families have lived in Driefontein for over 70 years. We cannot accept that the Government can simply take away our land without even being prepared to discuss it with us." Several hundred villagers turned up for the meeting, but before it could begin two police constables, one white and one black, arrived in a van and declared the gathering illegal. According to the villagers, there was some scuffling when the white policeman tried to grab Mr Mkhize's loudspeaker and punched or slapped him in the face. Tear gas canisters were fired.

Then the white constable drove the van out of the fenced yard, stopped, took out "a long gun" and fired at least two shots. The first hit a tree. The second was aimed directly at Mr Mkhize. The police say the constable acted to save himself from a "frenzied mob". In the untidy glossary of apartheid, Driefontein is a "black spot", sometimes more euphemistically called "a poorly situated area". The term is used to describe the parcels of land bought freehold by blacks from whites before 1913, when the Native Lands Act prohibited further transactions of this kind. Since they came to power in 1948, the Nationalists, in their

pathological obsession with racial tidiness, have been seeking to eradicate these black splashes besmirching the face of "white" South Africa.

The Government is secretive about the scale of the removals and its figures are considered unreliable. The best independent guess is that close to half a million people have been trucked from "black spots" and dumped in usually barren resettlement camps in one or other of the 10 generally impoverished and disease-ridden tribal "homelands" set aside for black occupation. Together they account for no more than 14 per cent of South Africa's land surface.

The "black spot" removals are only part of a larger resettlement policy in which an estimated two to three million people, the vast majority of them black and most of them against their will, have been moved. A further million are said to be threatened with removal. The "black spot" eradication is peculiarly senseless because it typically involves the uprooting of what are not only long-established but usually contented, conservative and relatively successful rural communities. Driefontein is a fair example.

Covering 6,100 acres, it was one of three farms sold by a Willem Gouws to the Native Farmers' Association of Africa Ltd in 1912. This was one of a number of companies set up to buy land for black settlement at a time when many whites were moving to the cities. Two adjoining pieces of black

boreholes, a clinic, a cattle dip and bigger school buildings.

Some years ago government officials went to the village and had the letters "S" or "Z", followed by a number, painted on the doors of houses. At the time, many villagers naively accepted the explanation that the purpose was to improve postal deliveries. In fact it was to show who were destined for KwaNgwane, the Swazi "homeland", and who were for KwaZulu, the Zulu "homeland", in crude disregard of cross-tribal marriage and family links.

In 1981 the villagers received a letter from a government deputy minister saying that sometimes it was necessary "for people to be encouraged to move for their own ultimate good" and that a dam "of national importance" was to be built which would "inundate some of your properties". In fact it has never been shown that the dam needs to flood more than a small part of the Driefontein area if at all.

The villagers also learnt that they would be taken to the resettlement locations in buses, provided with rations for no more than three days and temporary accommodation in tents or prefabricated shacks.

Mr Mkhize, who was about 48, inherited four properties from his father. He was also a qualified printer and worked in an accountancy firm in Johannesburg. Last December, at a meeting of 3,000 of the villagers, he was elected chairman of a new council of directors. This in effect replaced the previous "community board" which, it was felt, had not been negotiating toughly enough with the government. At one point about 80 landholders had signed affidavits saying they wanted to be moved, but nearly all later said they had done so under threats and pressure.

From December on there was increasing harassment of the villagers by police and government officials. In February, Mr Mkhize's 17-year-old son Paris was beaten up by some men who identified themselves as policemen (though the police disclaim any responsibility for the incident). On March 19 a magistrate from Walkerstrom arrived and delivered an ultimatum from the government: the resettlement was going ahead whether the villagers liked it or not, and the counting of houses and people could begin shortly. Two days before he died, Mr Mkhize wrote a letter direct to the Prime Minister, Mr Pieter Botha, beseeching him: "We need your help and we ask for it now".

They have built their own homes, one or two of them quite imposing in stone or brick like the Mkhize homestead, others of more traditional African design. They have also built churches, shops and a primary and a secondary school. The uncertainty of their status, and the worry that if moved they would get no compensation for any improvements, has inhibited them from spending money on other things they need, such as new

Michael Hornsby

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

ROCK OF AGES

Every spring since about 1850 the Atlantic and Mediterranean Fleets of the Royal Navy have met in Gibraltar and carried out joint exercises. Since 1945, this naval exercise has been called Spring Train. It has usually included both naval manoeuvres and some simulated defence of the Rock against possible assault. Last year, when the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic were being invaded by a real enemy, there were 24 British warships at anchor in the harbour of Gibraltar.

Until the Lisbon Agreement of 1980, which visualised that the border between the Rock and the mainland would be fully opened, Spain used to mark this British naval activity with diplomatic protest. Indeed there were often protests at the visit of a single warship, particularly a nuclear submarine. The Lisbon Agreement was supposed to trade the unqualified opening of the frontier with an undertaking to start discussions on all outstanding matters between Spain and Britain. After it was signed, the diplomatic protests stopped.

In the event Lisbon was never implemented, since the date chosen followed too closely on the dispatch of the task force to recover the Falklands and Spaniards of all political persuasions became seized by an emotional rapport with Argentina. Throughout the Falklands campaign the Spanish press cracked with hostility to Britain. There was an obvious identification between the Argentine attitude to "Las Malvinas", and every Spaniard's desire to reabsorb Gibraltar into Spain.

Now Spain's new Socialist government has reactivated the

Spanish protest at Spring Train and has threatened to take "appropriate measures" to see that Spain's interests will not be prejudiced. Madrid has overreacted to the perfectly legitimate presence of the British fleet. That is sad, but politically understandable. In Spain post-Falkland emotions still run high. There could be no more obvious trigger to them than the spectacle of a British Task Force - even to the inclusion of HMS Invincible - carrying out manoeuvres in an area of great political sensitivity off the southern coast of Spain. That sensitivity is not just caused by the memory of last year's warfare in the South Atlantic, when Spanish-speaking forces were humiliated, but also by the delicacy of Spain's uncertain membership of NATO.

Ironically it is in the field of naval cooperation between Britain and Spain within NATO that both countries could achieve most progress towards some sort of normalcy in arrangements over Gibraltar. The most likely outcome of Spain's membership being ratified by referendum, for instance, would be a new Nato naval command, in which a British admiral in Gibraltar would operate under the overall direction of a Spanish commander-in-chief. In those circumstances, next year's exercise Spring Train would be able to celebrate a fruitful, if functional, reconciliation between the two navies, entirely without prejudice to the difficult political discussions which should follow a full opening of the border.

Sadly the Spanish Government has not fully raised its siege

so the Lisbon Agreement still remains to be implemented. Such a state of affairs would be inconceivable between two NATO allies with democratically elected governments. It would be even more inconceivable, indeed intolerable, between two members of the EEC, assuming that Spain's application to join is ultimately accepted. Moreover the partial opening of the frontier to Spanish and Gibraltarian pedestrians has been grossly discriminatory. Gibraltarians can buy fresh produce in Spain and carry it home, but Spaniards are not allowed to do the reverse. No tourists are allowed to cross from Gibraltar into Spain, so that Gibraltar's tourist industry cannot as yet be revived. The estimated cash outflow from Gibraltar into Spain is thus running at between £100,000 and £150,000 per week and has given rise to many complaints by Gibraltar's Chamber of Commerce pressing its Government to retaliate in some way.

So there are points to be made by both sides. The wider interest must surely be to get over this momentary unpleasantness in relations and proceed to a point where a democratic Spain is a member both of NATO and of the European Community. From the British point of view that would not only enhance both the Alliance and the Community. It would also ensure that a democratic Spain, in spite of its feelings and ambitions for Gibraltar, would fully understand the democratic necessity for Britain to honour its pledge under the Gibraltar constitution to respect the wishes of the Gibraltarians on the issue of sovereignty.

Several MPs on Standing Committee C regard the new clause as not merely useless, but positively harmful. They argue that for a nationalized industry audit to be truly independent, it should be carried out by the Comptroller and the cost borne by Parliament. They do not want a "bonanza" for private accountants.

The dissenters are sufficiently enraged to arouse fears that the bill as a whole might be wrecked. Clause 22 might be defeated in committee today, though it will probably scrape through. If it does, Labour MPs in general could be moved to kill it at the report stage.

To lose the gains already won at committee stage in the shape of new powers for the Comptroller would be tragic. The exponents of backbench power should agree at least to consolidate gains on the Comptroller's role. For its part, the Government should make amends for the earlier antipathy by taking the Bill over and finding sufficient time on the floor of the Commons to ensure its passage, with or without the controversial clause.

The chief advantage of the Eurogroup is that it exists and works - though in a rather more limited sense than is here envisaged. (And it is within Nato already). The European Community by contrast is entirely distinct from Nato, although it is true that its machinery for coordinating foreign policies where practicable is working very well. The Community includes Ireland which is non-Nato, and does not contain Norway - but those are anomalies which are not insuperable. On balance the choice of the Community is arguable but not irresistibly so. Moreover to suggest that a European pillar should be built within Nato just to help strengthen the Community is the kind of argument which is, without wishing to cause offence, Irish.

The latest report carefully and rightly distinguishes between a defence community in Europe which would exist without the United States, and the concept of a European voice within the alliance. Even so, however right-minded one may be, the danger of splitting the alliance into two camps is a real one - and one which Nato, for all its imperfections, has so far just managed to avoid. We should not run the risk of driving the Americans back to their own tents, by accident or design.

There are arguments for and against adopting any of these as the basis for a more distinctly European contribution to the cause of Western defence. In many ways the WEU would be ideal, particularly as it has the support of the French - and to build a European pillar without winning the judgment of Paris would be plainly absurd.

Aid to Cambodian refugees

From the Director of The British Refugee Council and others

Sir, Your leader (April 7) focuses attention on the continuing plight of Cambodian refugees in Thailand and of at least 150,000 innocent Cambodian civilians caught in crowded temporary villages astride the Thai-Cambodian border.

These people are prevented from entering Thailand by the Thai Army and prevented from returning to the interior of Cambodia by their own guards and the Vietnamese Army; their situation is at best precarious when an uneasy peace prevails on the border. Now that battles are raging, their lives are in constant danger from shelling, mines and bullets.

While we must accept that protracted negotiations will be necessary before a settlement is reached in Kampuchea, there is one improvement which humanitarian organizations can and must achieve immediately, in spite of any political objections.

Some Cambodian civilians, both in camps in Thailand and on the border, now that battles are raging, their lives are in constant danger from shelling, mines and bullets. The British Refugee Council and its member agencies which have programmes in the area are willing to support the High Commissioner in his efforts to identify safe routes, make available transport and use his good offices with the Governments of Thailand and Cambodia to agree a solution to the problem. We urge the British Government to use all available diplomatic means to persuade those involved to cooperate fully in this essential humanitarian operation.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BARBER (Director, British Refugee Council),
BRIAN WALKER (Director General, Oxfam),
JOHN A. CUMBER (Director General, Save the Children Fund),
JOYCE PEARCE (Executive Chairman, Oxfam (Vietnam)),
The British Refugee Council,
Bondway House,
3/9 Bondway, SW8,
April 8.

Ill effects of lead

From Professor D. Bryce-Smith

Sir, The letter of April 6 from Miss Smith and others on the politically sensitive issue of lead pollution and mental performance in children fails in its stated objective to clarify the authors' views. Concerning their unpublished findings, they state that "Once the effect of social factors is removed from the equation, differences in performance between children with higher and lower lead levels were substantially reduced to a level that was not significant statistically."

Unfortunately, one cannot "remove" social factors in this way without simultaneously removing part of the contribution due to lead intoxication, for the reason that social factors and lead do not operate independently on the child. For example, it is well known that the toxic effects of lead can be greatly intensified by poor diet and great stress, both of which factors also tend to relate to social class etc. It therefore appears that statistical procedures have been employed which would tend to underestimate any contribution due to lead.

The authors should publish their findings in full for peer review, as soon as possible, rather than releasing them in dribs and drabs. Yours faithfully,
D. BRYCE-SMITH,
Professor of Organic Chemistry,
Department of Chemistry,
The University,
Whiteknights Park,
Reading,
Berkshire,
April 6.

Nuclear balance

From Dr Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, Why cannot we have the truth, says Mr William Shepherd (April 2), about the military balance in Europe. He asserts that misleading figures are constantly quoted as to the number of men deployed on the ground in both Nato and the Warsaw Pact. His implication that Soviet military capabilities in Europe are less impressive than they appear must be challenged.

First, the existing balance of forces provides the Warsaw Pact an advantage of approximately between 1.5 to one and two to one in combat power (measured in terms of armoured division equivalent - a method that attempts to equalize difference in combat power of different types of divisions). The pact also possesses a three to one advantage in tanks, a two to one advantage in armoured personnel carriers, at least a three to one advantage in conventional artillery, and at least a 2.4 to one advantage in tactical aircraft.

Human life and post-coital pill

From Professor Glanville Williams QC, FBA

Sir, When I said in my Carpenter lectures in 1956, as Mr J. M. Finnis quotes (April 5), that "the foetus is a human life to be protected by the criminal law from the moment when the ovum is fertilised", I was stating the general opinion as to the law, but my concern was to criticise it. In fact the precise time from which the developing ovum is protected by law had not been, and still has not been, legislatively or judicially determined.

Until 1803 the common law of the royal courts took the sensible view that abortion was not punishable before quickening, i.e. about mid-term. Parliament, regrettably, removed this limitation in that year; but the statute still defined the crime as "using means with intent to procure a miscarriage;" and this remains the wording of the law. The question is what was meant by "miscarriage."

In my book based on the lectures (*The Sanctity of Life and the Criminal Law*) I quoted medical statements that the word "miscarriage" formerly applied only after the sixteenth week (Britain) or twenty-eighth week (United States), the term "abortion" being used for the period before that. It can, therefore, be argued with considerable force that when Parliament abolished the limitation for quickening in 1803 it did not mean to extend the law back to the time of fertilisation (that is, to the period to which the term "abortion" was then medically confined). Why, otherwise, did Parliament choose the word "miscarriage" instead of and to the exclusion of "abortion"? It may be suggested that all that Parliament meant to do was to dispense with the need for proof of the woman's experience of quickening, while retaining the need to prove that the foetus had reached a fairly advanced stage of development - say, four months.

The present proposal for reinterpreting the word "miscarriage" is much more modest than this. It dates from the report of an advisory group established by the British Council of Churches in 1962, which suggested that for legal purposes conception should be taken to commence with the implantation of

the blastocyst in the womb, i.e. about two weeks after fertilisation. This offered a slight relaxation of the rigid ideas then prevailing, and, most important, it now offers a conceptual means of legalising not merely the useful post-coital pill but IUDs and also the "contraceptive" pill, which can work by preventing implantation rather than fertilisation. General opinion has come to realise that the consequences of any other view are too absurd for contemplation.

Mr Finnis, like other out-and-out anti-abortionists, rests his case principally upon a verbal argument. In his language and, he thinks, in common speech, a fertilised ovum is a "child", and he pleads that we must not "deprive the human being of just protection during its first two weeks of life." But is a fertilised ovum a child? And is it a human being? Of course one can use language to break down the distinction between the seed and the developed organism; one could speak of an acorn as a "quercine being", along with the oak tree; but that would not hoodwink anyone into thinking that an acorn is an oak. By "human being", in common speech, we refer to a human organism of a certain stage of development.

Historically, the extreme anti-abortion case rests upon theological speculation, which still influences it even though the theology is now discreetly relegated to the background. The fertilised ovum must be protected because the soul entered with fertilisation. But then there is the awkward phenomenon of the single ovum becoming twins, or quintuplets. Using the language of the soul, either you must say that the quintuplets owe their origin to a fertilised ovum inhabited by five souls, or you must say that the single soul in the fertilised ovum subsequently divided into five souls.

Would it not be more sensible, from every point of view, to agree that the question must not be considered at least within the first two weeks of fertilisation? Yours faithfully,
GLANVILLE WILLIAMS,
Merrion Gate,
Gazely Road,
Cambridge,
April 6.

Deported Romanian

From Mr E. D. Towne

Sir, Whilst in no way condoning the treatment of the expelled Romanian, I must take issue with some of Prince Alexandre's more tendentious remarks in his letter (April 8).

It may be that more could have been done to help the Russian Imperial family, although no doubt the British Government of the time had to consider the effect on public opinion of any measures taken to help a family identified with autocracy and Great Russian imperialism - the more so during a war being fought for the rights of peoples.

Prince Alexandre is on shakier ground when he imputes to the British Government the responsibility for the demise of the White forces in the civil war. He must know that the divisions among the various White commanders, to say nothing of the behaviour of many White units, helped immeasurably to seal their fate.

To allege that "England has the melancholy responsibility for the initial growth and proliferation of communism today" is both to give a

distorted view of the events from 1917 and to ascribe to the British Government vastly more power and influence than it enjoyed even at that time.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD TOWNE,
25 Ferbank Road,
Redland, Bristol, Avon.

Church and state

From the Reverend David F. Ferryman

Sir, The letter of the Reverend Mr W. Elbourne (April 2) concerning baptism and establishment seems to suggest that the establishment of the Church of England gives grounds for baptism of the children of all who live in our country. Neither the scriptures nor our prayer books know of baptism on such grounds. Rather baptism has always been rightly administered on the grounds of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

If Mr Elbourne wants his first word to parents requesting baptism to be Yes (and I would not disagree with that) then his responsibility as a minister and custodian of the gospel

surely demands that his second word is not because, but if. Even if their position could be justified theologically, those who claim that baptism of altarborns creates evangelistic opportunity surely have a lot of work to do to prove their case in the light of the history of the Church of England in this century.

Those criticised in his letter are perhaps being more honest than Mr Elbourne to the clear intention of the services, to the spirit of Canon B2.1, B2.2 and 4, and B2.3, and to baptism itself. Yours faithfully,
D. F. FERRYMANN,
The Rectory,
Ardingly,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex,
April 2.

quantitative advantages if Nato does not follow through with its long-term defence programme (the Pershing 2 and the sea missile modernization included).

I agree with Mr Shepherd that manpower comparisons are not in fact particularly valuable and that manning levels for both sides are difficult to assess. But there is clear evidence of the dynamic change in Soviet conventional forces to which Nato has drawn attention. Today, for example, a Soviet motorized rifle division is equal in firepower to the strongest US mechanized division. An independent tank battalion with about 42 tanks has been added to each motorized rifle division. Soviet investments in artillery, multiple rocket launcher holdings, and air defence systems are most marked. Today's 31 Soviet divisions in the groups of Soviet forces are equivalent to at least 40 "1966-equipped" divisions.

Mr Shepherd cannot deny that the Soviet conventional force build-up in central Europe has been consistent with their doctrine, which dramatizes the advantages of surprise, mass concentration, firepower and shock to smash through Nato's defences and rapid movement to exploit the breakthrough. He might be right to credit the Soviets with non-aggressive intentions, but their capabilities tell us to be sceptical. Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS,
13 Devon Bank,
Portsmouth Road,
Guildford,
Surrey,
April 4.

Hard hearts and Third World

From Mr Hallam Murray

Sir, It saddens me greatly to read Peter Bauer and Basil Yamey's article ("Why we should close our purse to the Third World", April 11). How extraordinary that two such eminent professors should take such a black and white view of this complex issue.

Government-to-government aid is just one aspect of international aid. Although the sums of money are large indeed, the two professors make no mention whatsoever of the value of the countless thousands of programmes financed by the independent aid organizations situated throughout most of the developed world. By and large, the aid programmes run by these organizations are less troubled by government interference and are more easily monitored in terms of cost-effectiveness.

Whether or not it is correct to assume that aid cannot significantly promote Third World development, surely such areas as disaster relief and the provision of fresh water supplies are reasons enough not to close our purses, whether national or private. What is needed is a more careful control of where and on what this money is spent. Yours faithfully,
HALLAM MURRAY,
97 Shutebury Road, SW11,
April 11.

Design for living

From Professor Bruce Archer

Sir, My former colleague, Mr Brian Smith, has been allowed to get away scot-free with his outrageous comments (April 8) on the role of the art colleges in design education. In asserting that design should be got out of the art schools, Mr Smith iterates two widely held misconceptions, about which he should know better, and then jumps to an unwarrantable conclusion.

Firstly, he asks the rhetorical question, "Where can most young people study design, except at colleges of art-and-design?" He implies that the answer is "nowhere", but this is not the case. Design is also studied in schools of architecture, engineering and everywhere that the configuration of things and systems is a matter of concern. Design is a ubiquitous concept, like literacy, numeracy and scientific awareness. This has been the whole point of the correspondence which Mr Smith admits he was late in noticing.

Secondly, he states that manufacturing industries suspect the products of the schools of art and design. Whatever he may mean by this sweeping generalisation, it is manifestly not the case that the relevant industries fail to take graduates of the art schools into their employ. Indeed, there can be few departments of universities and polytechnics whose records of take-up into industrial employment could outshine those of most of the design departments of most of the colleges of art in Britain. To imply anything else flies in the face of the facts.

From these two shaky premises, Mr Smith goes on to conclude that "the way to achieve better recognition of design as a value-adding resource is to get it out of the art colleges." Where on earth can he mean? Where else, as he himself said, could graphic designers, illustrators, textile designers, fashion designers, silversmiths and the rest - all indispensable contributors to the added value of their respective industries - get their training?

Mr Smith would have done better to have supported the campaign to get better recognition of design in the engineering and business schools; and in general education, than to knock the art schools. Yours faithfully,
BRUCE ARCHER,
Royal College of Art,
Kensington Gars, SW7,
April 10.

Sea fever

From Mr S. C. J. Palmer

Sir, David Moss (April 7) seems concerned about the apparently high leave allowances of merchant seamen: one day's leave for every two day's work in the case of deep-sea mariners.

If Mr Moss were to consider his own leave entitlement he would not find those of the seamen so peculiar. Assuming that the average shore-based employee works a five-day week and receives four weeks' holiday plus eight Bank holidays, I calculate that in a year he actually works 233 days, which is, in fact, more than one day off for every two days work.

In addition, some of the merchant seamen's workdays are at weekends; ashore it is usual to give time off in lieu in a greater proportion than one for one for work on these days. Perhaps the National Union of Seamen had a case? Yours faithfully,
S. C. J. PALMER,
206 Maritime House,
Old Town,
Clapham SW4,
April 8.

Taking 'The Times'

From Mr Michael Fiorini

Sir, I can sympathise with Mr Stephen West, (March 28). Some years ago, at Victoria Station, there was a poster advertising the fact that "75 per cent of top people took *The Times*". Under this dubious statement was added: "The other 25 per cent pay for it", by an earlier sufferer. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FIORINI,
c/o 6 St Paul's Square,
Bromley,
Kent,
March 28.

OF BACKBENCHERS, BABY AND BATHWATER

Mr Norman St John-Stevas's Parliamentary Control of Expenditure (Reform) Bill has made considerable progress in its committee stage. The Comptroller and Auditor General, invented by Mr Gladstone in 1866 as a means of ensuring probity in the public finances, has had his powers substantially strengthened. Mr St John-Stevas has brought the Treasury and its Chief Secretary, Mr Leon Britan, a long way in persuading them to agree that the Comptroller shall be in future an official of the House of Commons and that his right to pursue value-for-money, plus efficiency and effectiveness investigations, should be set in statute as Gladstone enshrined his traditional audit powers in the Exchequer and Audit Act. In future, the Commons backbenchers, most notably the Chairman of the Select Committee on Public Accounts, will enjoy an effective veto over whom is appointed to the Comptroller-ship, though the Prime Minister will continue formally to recommend the name of the appointee.

These reforms may sound arcane to the layman. But they are the very stuff of backbench power. Yet, when Standing Committee C reconvenes this morning after the Easter recess it will meet in an atmosphere of sourness and recrimination. For the reformers have fallen out. The acrimony arises from the

compromise reached between Mr St John-Stevas and Mr Brittan on how the nationalised industries shall be audited on behalf of Parliament and who shall do it. The original version of the bill would have enabled the Comptroller and Auditor General to assign staff from his Exchequer and Audit Department to examine the books of public bodies 50 per cent or more of whose finance was furnished from the public purse.

The Nationalised Industries Chairman's Group was incensed. The Treasury and the Department of Industry counter-attacked on the chairman's behalf.

Under the new clause which enshrines the Stevas-Brittan concordat, an audit of economy, efficiency and effectiveness will be carried out annually within each nationalized industry. The field to be investigated will be decided by the industry's sponsoring minister, the Public Accounts Committee and the select committee which monitors the work of the body concerned. The auditor concerned will not be a member of the Comptroller's staff, though the Comptroller will be able to comment on what he uncovers. The results will be reported to Parliament. The sponsoring minister, after consultation with the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, can ex-

NO PLINTH, NO PILLAR

Arguments in favour of building a European pillar within the frame work of Nato have been fashionable for more than a decade at least. Unlike those in favour of motherhood and apple pie, they have not gone entirely unopposed. But the "ayes" have usually outnumbered the "noes" within the forum of an intellectual debate. Now the report by Chatham House and others has swelled the chorus of assent.

Many Europeans have lost confidence in the leadership from Washington, and resent having to play second fiddle. Many Americans have lost confidence in the willingness of Europeans to shoulder their fair share of the defence burden - and resent having to redress the balance of the Old World without an appropriate display of gratitude. The European allies in fact still provide the bulk of Nato's ground and air defences in situ - and it is equally true that American motives are not simply altruistic. But the perceptions are none the less important and if the dissatisfaction which emerges on both sides of the Atlantic from time to time could be removed - then Nato would be the better for it.

Ideally pillars should grow naturally, developing slowly like stalagmites as opposed to springing up overnight as it were - like monuments. Ideas at some stage have to coalesce before being

given practical form. But the inspiration behind any such development within the Atlantic alliance should be deeply and universally felt if it is going to be more than a nine days' wonder. Whether this is now the case is very doubtful. Arguments heard now differ little from those which were being expressed in the early 1970s and while the assent is still louder than the dissent, it is far from being united.

One of the difficulties is that those in favour of strengthening the European pillar cannot decide upon the plinth. Should it be the European Community - as is favoured in this latest plea? Or should it be the Eurogroup, the tangential body of European powers which already exists within Nato? Or indeed should it not be the Western European Union (WEU), now quietly moribund - but, in French eyes anyway, capable of resuscitation?

There are arguments for and against adopting any of these as the basis for a more distinctly European contribution to the cause of Western defence. In many ways the WEU would be ideal, particularly as it has the support of the French - and to build a European pillar without winning the judgment of Paris would be plainly absurd.

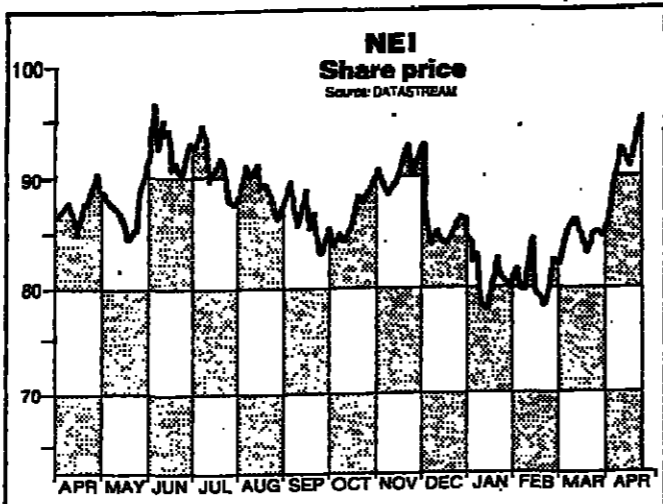
شكر من الأهل

Lower profits dent Smiths share price

Smiths Industries
 Half-year to 29.1.83
 Pretax profit £9.5 (£11.2m)
 Turnover £183m (£187m)
 Net interim 4p (same)
 Share price 411p down 11p Yield 3.8%
 Dividend payable 13.5.83

In the industrial companies, there was a fall from £2.7m to £1.8m at the trading level and there seems little chance of improved volumes.

The Australian and South African companies had a sharp setback, with sales slightly lower at £29m, and profits down from £2m to £42,000. The drop reflected recession in both countries, but although those economies are still in the doldrums, Smiths reports improvements in trading, although it believes results will be substantially lower for the year as a whole.



another £3m to reduce debt further.

Plans for five new Comfort Inns are well advanced and will cost Comfort only £1m; its quoted but unnamed property partner will put up the balance of £9m.

Occupancy rates last year were better than in 1981, with bookings indicating that 1983

Comfort Hotels International
 Year to 20.12.82
 Pretax profit £1.3m (£274,000)
 Stated earnings 1.84p (0.1p)
 Turnover £28.5m (24.1p)
 Net dividend 0.65p (0.6p)
 Share price 32p Yield 2.5%

could see an improvement of perhaps 5 per cent, only six months after a similar rise.

The return of tourists to London should benefit the hotels, Strikes restaurants and the Dayvilles ice cream parlours. Strikes is at last to get a quote on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Overseas, the losses from the Netherlands have been much reduced and profits are expected this year.

Comfort Hotels International
 The years figures for Comfort Hotels International are not unreasonable, given the state of the industry, but the company gearing that is warranted.

However, the sale and lease-back arrangements with Routeston have already brought in £3m, reducing borrowings to £16m. Completion of outstanding deals will soon bring on

Reyrolle and Peebles electrical businesses which have seen a marked turn round over the last two years. As a result the British businesses have accounted for a higher proportion of pretax profits.

Operations in Britain accounted for £30m of profit but 48 per cent of orders were for export.

The South African subsidiary reported a 36 per cent rise in profits, and has a record order book.

NEI is going into 1983 with a record order book, and a positive cash flow - bank balances and deposits exceeded total borrowings by £33m.

On this basis the company has increased the dividend, and at the rate of progress shown over the last four years should be able to continue to do so.

Northern Engineering

Northern Engineering Industries
 Year to 31.12.82
 Pretax profit £29.5m (£33.0m)
 Stated earnings 11.25p (10.34p)
 Turnover £867m (£721m)
 Net final dividend 3.25p mkg 4.75p (4.125p)
 Share price 96p + 3p Yield 7%

NEI's workload has been good throughout last year, with work for both the Heysham II and Torness nuclear power stations.

There have been rises, too, in

Annual Report 1982.

In a difficult year, our figures only tell you half the story.

HALF THE STORY.

EM	1982	1981
Premium Income	1,358	1,157
Underwriting Losses	153.8	52.9
Investment Income	195.5	156.9
Pre-Tax Profit	44.5	104.9
Tax	(9.1)	31.7
Attributable Profit	53.6	73.2
Earnings per Share	31.3p	43.7p

THE OTHER HALF.

RESERVES
 Exchange rate movements added to the sterling measure of our net assets overseas and, together with favourable developments in investment values, combined to produce total surplus funds of £923 million and a world-wide solvency margin of 75% - a clear demonstration of the strength of our financial resources and the security this gives to all our policyholders.

DIVIDEND
 The Board are recommending a final dividend of 9.5p per share, making a total of 17p per share, an increase of 4.6%. Despite the earnings decline, the Board consider some small dividend progression justified by a cover of 1.8 times.

CLAIMS
 Our exceptional underwriting losses in the UK highlighted the extent of the insurance protection we provided for our policyholders, both private and commercial, during perhaps the worst winter in living memory. But we believe it is to give just this kind of support that we are in business.

LIFE ASSURANCE
 I am pleased to record outstanding results for new individual business in 1982, with increases in both sums assured and premiums well above market average. The figures were boosted by more attractive premium rates for non-smokers, a new bonus series and the first Plain-English life policy in the UK.

MANAGEMENT
 As I travel both at home and overseas, I am encouraged to see the skill and dedication of a new generation of management moving into positions of leadership within the Corporation. It is in their hands that our future prosperity will lie.

NEW TECHNOLOGY
 Investment in new technology proceeds and although the full benefits remain to be reaped in future years we are already seeing welcome returns in several areas of our operations.

THE WAY AHEAD
 I take most comfort from the indications of an incipient economic recovery in the United States. If this is encouraged to gather pace and leads to an end to the long recession elsewhere, then we can begin to hope for an increase in the demand for insurance and some easing of competitive pressures induced by over-capacity.

In the meantime we must resolve that our share of a market still contracting is not defended at any cost.

From the Annual Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Gordon R. Simpson.



General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation plc.

World Headquarters, General Buildings, Perth, Scotland PH1 5TP.

The complete story of how we did in 1982 is included in our Annual Report for the year. A copy can be obtained by writing to the Secretary at the address above.

COMMODITIES

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		INTERNATIONAL	
Prices in pounds per metric ton		Prices in pounds per metric ton	
Commodity	Price	Commodity	Price
High grade copper	1082.10	Aluminium	2420.00
Three months	1112.00-1113.00	Lead	2420.00
Cash	1082.10	Zinc	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Nickel	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Platinum	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Palladium	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Rhodium	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Rueterium	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Silver	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Gold	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Iron	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Steel	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Coal	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Oil	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Gas	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Wheat	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Corn	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Soybeans	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Cotton	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Wool	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Rubber	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Latex	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Sisal	2420.00
Three months	1082.10	Other	2420.00

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● Arrangements are in hand to place 1.2 million ordinary shares of Unigroup at 50p each to raise about £73,000, after expenses. This will be made available by Unigroup to its 80 per cent-owned subsidiary, Kavco Marketing. Kavco will use the money to expand the Olzon Aerosol, to which it has the marketing rights in the United Kingdom.

● Bytec Management Corporation, the Ottawa-based venture capital group founded by Mr. Michael Cowpland, president of Intel, and Mr. Glen St. John, is acquiring Gulfstream Technology Group. Bytec, formed in 1978, already manages a portfolio of companies worth over 50m, including Dyna-logic Info-Tech, the makers of the Hyperion portable business computer. The acquisition of Gulfstream - and its two operating companies, Gulfstream Computer Products and Gulfstream Computer Systems - through an all-share deal worth potentially several million dollars marks Bytec's first direct investment outside Canada and the US.

● British Vita have formed a joint venture in Finland with Espe by to manufacture industrial fibre wadings for the garment, upholstery and general industries. The company to be called Vitavanu Oy, will operate within Espe's main complex at Kouvolaa.

Bowthorpe Holdings
 Year to 31.12.82
 Pretax profit, £12.4m (£11.4m)
 Stated earnings, 15.8p (13.9p)
 Turnover, £72.8m (£83.3m)
 Net dividend, 4.04p (3.41p)

Air Call (U.S.M. stock)
 Year to 31.12.82
 Pretax profit, £1.01m (£963,000)
 Stated earnings, 21.0p
 Turnover, £15.18m (£13.64m)
 Net dividend, 5.5p (5.6)

Emess Lighting
 Year to 31.12.82
 Pretax profit, £191,000 (£183,000)
 Stated earnings, 15.4p (13.84p)
 Turnover, £1.85m (£1.78m)
 Net dividend, 3.25p (3.0p)

Johnston Group
 Year to 31.12.82
 Pretax profit, £8.27m (£5.18m)
 Stated earnings, 31.96p (25.86p)
 Turnover, £23.06m (£42.41m)
 Net dividend, 6.0p (4.0p)

Expamet International
 Year to 31.12.82
 Pretax profit, £1.95m (£1.15m)
 Stated earnings, 5.35p (2.3p)
 Turnover, £27.88m (£32.31m)
 Net dividend, 4.5p (4.5p)

Solex
 Year to 31.12.82
 Pretax loss, £1.19m (£480,000 loss)
 Stated earnings (loss), 20.8p (loss, 8.0p)
 Turnover, £10.82m (£11.37m)
 Net dividend, 4.3p (0.1p)

Lamont Holdings
 Year to 31.12.82
 Pretax profit, £568,000 (£481,000)
 Stated earnings, 2.96p (3.8p)
 Turnover, £9.74m (£9.93m)
 Net dividend, 1.3p (1.2p)

H. & J. Quick Group
 Year to 31.12.82
 Loss attributable £172,000 (£5,000 loss)
 Turnover, £85.15m (£79.6m)
 Net dividend, 1.45p (1.45p)

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	10 1/2%
Barclays	10 1/2%
BCCI	10 1/2%
Consolidated Crds	10 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	10 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	10 1/2%
Midland Bank	10 1/2%
Nat Westminster	10 1/2%
TSB	10 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	10 1/2%

At 7 day deposits on terms of overdraft £10,000. 7 day £10,000 and over. £50,000, 8 1/2%, £250,000 and over, 9%.



Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 142nd Annual General Meeting of United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution will be held at United Kingdom House, Castle Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, on Wednesday, 8th June 1983, at 11.15 am, for the following purposes.

- To consider the documents comprised within the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1982.
- To re-elect the following directors who retire by rotation in accordance with Rule 8.01:
 Mr. W. M. Clarke
 Sir John Riddell, Bt.
 Mr. J. G. Curtis
- To re-appoint Messrs. Deloitte Haskins & Sells as the auditors to the Institution and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration.

By Order of the Board
 S. V. Finn
 Deputy General Manager
 (Property) and Secretary
 23rd March 1983

AIR CALL communications



AIR CALL PLC Preliminary Results for the year ended 31st December, 1982

Turnover	Notes	1982	1981
Turnover		£000	£000
		15,183	13,646
Group Profit subject to taxation		1,015	963
Taxation	(205)		(77)
Group profit after taxation and before extraordinary items		810	886
Extraordinary items	(1)	(379)	151
Group profit before dividends		431	1,037
Dividends	(2)	(216)	(216)
Retained profit		215	821
Proposed final dividend per share		3.75p	3.75p
Earnings per share		21.0p	23.0p

1. Extraordinary items include the Company's share of the Cellular Radio Licence Application and goodwill arising from the acquisition during the year of three radio telephone businesses.

2. The Directors are recommending a final dividend of 3.75p net per share making a total for the year of 5.6p net.

N.B.

The Department of Industry, after protracted negotiations, have informed us that they will issue to Air Call in the immediate future, a Radio Comm Carriers' Licence and a letter of intent to issue a further Licence to cover line and international communication activities when the present Telecommunications Bill, which is currently before Parliament, becomes law.

In the past we have had to struggle to enter new fields of communications and to expand services. These Licences are, therefore, of enormous importance and will enable us to develop with far more certainty than would otherwise be the case.

Obviously we have to hold an A.G.M. in the near future but before I fix a date for this I want to be able to report that we have the Licence and the letter of intent.

J. O. Stanley
 Chairman

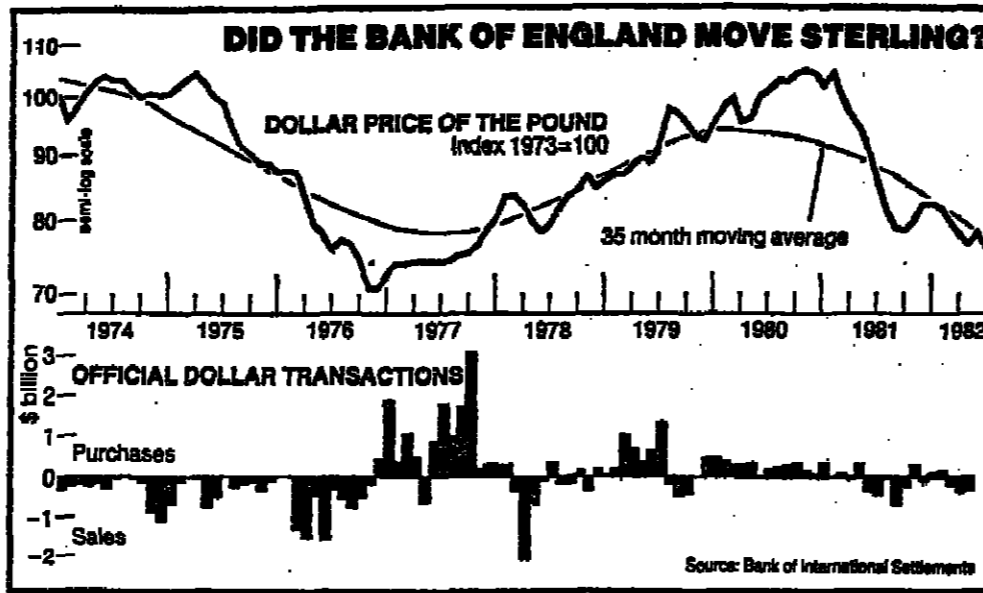
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APPOINTMENTS

New joint chief at Aitken Hume

Mr M. C. Scory has been appointed joint chief executive with Mr M. Aitken of the Aitken Hume Group. Dr G. Hetherington has become deputy chairman of TSL Thermal Syndicate. Mr David Kern is the new manager and chief economist, market intelligence department, of National Westminster Bank. Mr Michael Fletcher has been appointed managing director of Planned Savings Group. Mr B. S. Sheppard becomes a director of Olympic (Redacre). Mr C. J. M. Parker has been elected chairman of A. Caird & Sons. Mr Abel Hadden has been appointed director of Good Relations Group and chief executive of Good Relations, the consumer public relations subsidiary. Mr W. M. Alder is the new manager of National Westminster Bank's Bahrain branch. Mr J. M. Chapman has been appointed finance director of Erskine House Investments. Mr John P. Clark has been elected to the board of Wigham Poland Pension Consultants. Mr Colin E. Brown has been appointed a director of Wigham Poland Non Marine. Mr W. J. Fox is joining the board of LCP Holdings. Mr John Earl has been made managing director of Haden Dryers International, the industrial finishing and mechanical handling division of Haden. Mr J. A. Griffiths has joined the board of Initial, in the newly-created position of finance director. Mr J.W. Moffat has been appointed a managing director of Marley Floors. Mr W.D.H. Gregson has become a non-executive director of H. Brammer. Mr G.J.A. Jamieson, a director of Robert Fleming Holdings, has been elected chairman of The Charities Official Investment Fund. Mr Helmut Sothen has become a senior vice-chairman of World-Wide Shipping Agency, in Hongkong. Mr Stephen Y.K. Pao has been appointed as senior executive director of World-Wide Shipping Agency, and also as director of Maritime Navigation, the group's affiliates in London.

None but the most steady of monetarists now believes that exchange rates are best left solely to market forces. The wild week-by-week movements of currencies in recent years have often borne little relation to real economic forces. European governments (with a brief post-election lapse by the Thatcher Government) have not hesitated to buy or sell their own currencies when they see fit from the "helpful hand on the tiller" advocated by the Bank of England governor to the all-out defence of the currency pursued - though without conspicuous success - by the French. But the Americans, whose currency still dominates the world financial scene, refuse to play ball. Their policy of "benign neglect", which has accompanied a soaring dollar, has, Europeans claim, deepened the world recession and held back economic recovery by pushing up interest rates and inflation. Whether currency intervention, as distinct from more fundamental policy changes, would have made a great deal of difference is doubtful. But the technical intervention issue has become overlaid with more political passions. In microcosm, it represents the war being waged by Europe on American economic isolationism. A retreat from "benign neglect" would, the European camp hopes, pave the way for further modification of US policies to take account of their international repercussions, notably by action to curb rising budget deficits. To the Europeans' delight, the Americans have scored something of an own goal with their suggestion at last year's Versailles summit for a study on the efficacy of intervention. This successfully defused the issue for a while, as it was intended to do. But the report, due to be published shortly, before the Williamsburg summit next month, supports the European stance. Though it makes no recommendations, its technical analysis suggests that intervention does work in reducing currency fluctuations. The study, chaired by M Philippe Jurgensen, a senior French finance official, draws a distinction between "sterilized" and non-sterilized intervention, according to whether the authorities allow their foreign exchange operations to affect domestic money policy or not. Intervention, say, to support sterling automatically tightens money conditions at home because the Bank of England is buying pounds and taking them out of circulation. This puts upward pressure on interest



Growing call for US currency intervention

rates unless the effect is counteracted or "sterilized". Clearly, sterilized intervention is likely to be less effective than if the authorities had allowed money conditions to tighten. Reinforcing action by governments, to squeeze money policy further, will have an even greater impact on the currency. American intervention has typically been of the sterilized variety because their system of targeting bank reserves would otherwise lead to cash floods or famines in the money markets as dollars drained in or out of the system. In Europe, where the authorities tend to target broader money measures, intervention has normally been non-sterilized. In Britain, for instance, the Bank of England offsets the effects of its currency transactions in its money market operations - for the same reasons as the Americans do it. But these transactions would normally affect the main target measure of money growth. The amount of intervention since 1977, when the cap was lifted from sterling, has generally been very small. So, in practice the direct impact on domestic monetary conditions has been negligible. The fact that American intervention has typically been less effective than European currency operations may provide a face-saver for Mr Beryl Sprinkel, US Treasury Undersecretary and arch-opponent of intervention, but it is not going to deflect pressure on the Americans to come into line when heads of government discuss the issue again. Further support for the European position comes in another paper published last month by the Bank for International Settlements, the central bankers' club based in Basle. This concludes, from a study of foreign exchange operations by Britain, Germany and Japan, that official intervention is predominantly stabilizing. "These findings would appear to put the burden of proof on those who argue that the official role in the exchange markets has been primarily unhelpful and will continue to be so in the future", the study says, in an unmistakable sideways at the United States. The paper's authors, whose views broadly reflect those of the BIS, reject the use of a

profitability criterion. This is the most widely used measure of the effectiveness of currency intervention and the one, albeit surrounded by caveats, on which the Jurgensen study was based. Instead they looked at whether intervention pushed the exchange rate towards or away from its long run equilibrium rate as measured by a 35-month moving average. Where the exchange rate was close to its equilibrium level they judged that intervention was helpful if it pushed the currency back towards its last observed level - on the grounds that the authorities may not know precisely where equilibrium lies and may wish to prevent movements going too far. On the first criterion alone stabilizing interventions outnumbered destabilizing interventions between 1974 and 1982 by 2 1/2 to 1 in Germany, and 4 to 1 in Japan. In Britain the balance was roughly equal. Using both tests together the

Industrial notebook Aircraft that should be left grounded

Britain's struggling aerospace industry is becoming more strident in its calls on the Government to commit vast sums on Europe's latest, decidedly dubious aircraft ventures. Mrs Thatcher and her ever-optimistic team know that in this industry the funds and the gamble are enormous. But the odds against success for the proposed "mini Airbus", the 150-seat jet airliner being developed by the Airbus Industrie consortium, are longer still. Even so, the Government appears nearly ready to spend the money - up to £400m - even though the Airbus consortium has yet to provide the British, French, West German and Spanish partners with much hope of a return. The aircraft, the A320, would turn Airbus's products into a proper family - like Boeing's of the United States - and it is being planned as a very high technology, super efficient, big profit earning short-haul jet. But it appears unlikely that it will ever get off the drawing boards. Even if it does, it is unlikely to fly before the 1990s and then will have to compete with the mighty Boeing. With the world's airlines reeling from recession, nobody is forecasting with confidence when the market will revive sufficiently to warrant the massive investment - probably as much as £1,000m - necessary to build a new aircraft. By the end of the decade, business air travel in particular is likely to be eroded dramatically by advances in electronic communications. The result for Airbus is a Catch 22 dilemma. Governments will not stump up the cash until airlines order enough A320s to make the project practicable and the airlines are wary of countenancing themselves before the aircraft becomes a reality. Public utterances have shown admirable caution on the part of the British and Germans, who have been attacked by the French for being too timid with their money. In the midst of bickering, Mr Norman

The issue has become overlaid with political passions

There are signs that the US may be willing to budge

Frances Williams
Official intervention in the Exchange Markets: stabilising or destabilising? by Helmut Mayer and Hiroo Taguchi (BIS Economic Papers No 6 - March 1983).

Table with multiple columns listing financial data, including 'Authorized Units & Insurance Funds' and 'Insurance Bonds and Funds'. The table contains numerous rows of numerical data and company names.

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BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY BELL'S

Shares of Debenhams, the department store chain, continued to scale new heights yesterday on hopes of a bid once the UDS battle has been decided.

The price rose 7p to a new high of 125p as more than 1 million shares changed hands after hours alone. At this level the group with 67 department stores is valued at £167m. Favourite candidate to make a bid is Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Group, currently tied up in the Bassishaw consortium bidding for UDS.

Last month National Insurance Guarantee, a subsidiary of Heron, bought more than 1 million shares at around the 118p level. But last night Heron denied it had been buying more shares. On behalf of Mr Ronson, Mr Cyril Spencer, chief executive of Bassishaw, said: "We have definitely not been dealing in Debenhams, and have no intention of making a bid."

However, with a net asset value of 226.3p a share, the temptation to make a bid for the company remains great. Debenhams had no comment to make.

Debenhams at record 125p

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, Monday, Dealings end, April 22, Contango Day, April 26, Settlement Day, May 3.

Meanwhile, the rest of the equity market showed no signs of running out of steam. Blue chips led the way higher on hopes of an imminent cut in bank base rates with the FT Index closing another 3.8 up for a new peak of 687.7 - for a two-day rise of 12.7.

Shares of Inasun Leisure Group, the holiday tour operators, held steady at 131p despite a large seller of 4.5 million shares - 9% of the equity. The seller is thought to have been a board member who sold below the market price.

Even the surprise £77.2m cash offer from GKN, Britain's biggest engineering group, failed to dampen enthusiasm as the price tumbled 16p to 162p. TI Group lost 2p to 162p after 158p, in sympathy.

Gills continued to reflect growing optimism of a cut in base rates and the pound's continued recovery on the

foreign exchange, where it ended up 1.45 cents at \$1.5415. But earlier gains of more than £1 were pared by profit-taking as investors raised cash for application in the new top, where dealings start tomorrow. In longs, prices ended the day 1/2p easier, while shorts were 2 1/2p lower.

Speculation continued to help Debenhams, the troubled tycoon which ended the day 3p higher at 58p. On Monday, Pegi Multi-Purpose announced it had bought a further 6.5 million shares, taking its stake to 26.1 per cent and leading to renewed speculation that the Singapore-based group may soon be making a bid for control of the group.

One of the best movers of the day among the FT constituents was ICI, one of the biggest British industrial companies, jumping 14p to a high of 416p, after 420p. The group is due to report first quarter figures on April 28, with the market

looking for pretax profits of around £90m against £62m for the corresponding period last year. Despite recent American support, most of yesterday's support came from British investors hoping for further signs of a recovery.

Expect details this week of BET's minority bid for Rediffusion. The merchant banks are putting the finishing touches to the deal, whereby BET will buy the remaining 36.1 per cent of the shares. Meanwhile, Mr Hugh Dundas, chairman of BET, has again denied the company was itself the target of a bid as the shares added another 10p to 245p yesterday. "There is no one breathing down our necks," he said.

C. H. Beazer has won control of Second City Properties by the skin of its teeth. Acceptances for its 77p share bid, valuing the Birmingham-based property group at £18.1m, amounted to

54 per cent of the shares. The offer has now gone unconditional. Meanwhile, Michael Ashcroft's, Kean & Scott, has also won its battle for control of furniture manufacturer, Alpine Holdings, with the offer now going unconditional. Acceptances totalled 7.3 million shares, including 679,000 shares in respect of the separate cash offer, which accounts for 77 per cent of the company.

Unigroup has placed 1.2 million shares at 50p to raise £570,000. The money will be used to sell its air-based-refillable aerosol system.

Market, shares of Fitch & Co were unchanged at 125p despite Monday's figures showing the group easily exceeding profits with pretax profits of £875,000 compared with the earlier figure of £825,000.

Millford Docks rallied after Monday's shake-out with the price closing 25p dearer at 75p, still reflecting the recent cash-raising proposals. Earlier this year, the shares were traded at around 150p amid hopes of a long-awaited bid.

1982/3 High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yield
100p	95p	Treas	95p	+1p	3.267	9.919
100p	95p	Each	95p	+1p	3.267	9.919
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FOOTBALL: SETBACKS OFF THE FIELD AND ON

Taxing problems for Hartlepool and the League

As another Football League club, Hartlepool United, of the fourth division, admitted that they face financial collapse...

Another subject "not for discussion" was that of televised football when the League chairman gathered on Monday...



Coppell: Out of FA Cup semi-final

Coppell injury gives Wilkins a reprieve

Steve Coppell, the England winger, is out of the Manchester United team to play Arsenal in the FA Cup semi-final at Villa Park on Saturday...

Pat Jennings, the Arsenal goalkeeper, had a successful comeback in a specially-arranged reserve match against Charlton yesterday...

Inquiry into 'fixed' Inter match

Rome (AFP) - Another match-fixing scandal has emerged in Italy three years after the one which led to several players being banned...

McLean to quit as Ayr boss

Willie McLean has resigned as manager of struggling Scottish first division club Ayr United...

Clearance for Ilkeston after appeal

The non-League club, Ilkeston Town have won an appeal against an FA commission who prohibited them from joining the Football League...

Confusion over World Cup visits

Mexico City (Agencies) - Senior officials of FIFA, the world's governing body, have arrived here to assess the country's application to stage the 1986 World Cup finals...

Proctor leaves

Sunderland have failed to keep Mark Proctor on the Republic of Ireland squad for the end of the season...

SQUASH: SETTLING ARGUMENTS IN BRITISH OPEN

Lisa Opie, the Nottingham-based Guernsey player, and Gamal Awad, the Dartford-based Egyptian, yesterday earned their chances to succeed...

Chappell a pro-am celebrity

Spinner on the European circuit last year, Greg Chappell, the former Test cricket captain, will be in the Australian team for the first international pro-am change match against Britain at Moor Park, Rickmansworth, on July 18...

Miss Opie nicks the cream

Lisa Opie, the Nottingham-based Guernsey player, and Gamal Awad, the Dartford-based Egyptian, yesterday earned their chances to succeed...

RUGBY UNION: PROFESSIONAL GAME MOVES A STEP NEARER

Circus with a ring of confidence

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The spectre of a professional Rugby Union player just as football raised its head again to haunt the game's administrators as a result of yesterday's suggestion that an Australian sports promoter was assembling 200 of the world's leading players...



Graham Mourie: Warned of impending world cup

The latest plan, names David Lord, the Australian sports promoter, and television commentator, as the man who is assembling eight international squads from the four home countries...

down in 1977, following the Lions tour to New Zealand. At that time it seemed more in the nature of a testing of the waters...

A spokesman for Wembley said no rugby tournament had been decided to run a Rugby tournament next September...

Need for collective ability on Portuguese tour

During the three matches they will play on their Portuguese tour, England's 16 group schools are unlikely to be so effectively "cleaned out" of possession as they were by Wales at Bristol on Monday evening...

The point at issue, however, is whether rugby union could not be played at two levels just as football raised its head again...

YACHTING

Italians introduce their crew

Rome (AP) - The Italian consortium launching Italy's first challenge in the America's Cup, has introduced the crew members of the 12 metre yacht Azzura at a press conference...

CRICKET: UMPIRES' CLASS OF '83

Captains to take a line on a matter of length

The majority of first-class cricketers, at yesterday's meeting of the Cricketers' Association, only heard Bob Willis, the England Cricket Board later this month...

GOLF

Boost for tour

The work's professional tour received a £7,000 boost when it was confirmed that the UBM northern classic would be staged at Arcot Hall, Northumberland, from June 16 to 18...

Garner gathers three wickets in lively spell

Bridgetown (Reuters) - Joel Garner took three wickets in 13 overs to put Barbados firmly on course for victory over the Indians here yesterday...

Chappell wants to be one of boys

Colombo (Reuters) - Greg Chappell said yesterday that he would not be available to captain the Australian team for the first international match here today...

An upright David who could smite the Goliaths

A generation ago, whenever cricketers discussed the great stylists of the game, the name of Lionel Palairet (who died on March 27, 1935) found support...

England sweep the board

England won all their matches yesterday in the home countries schoolboys hockey championships played at Dublin and Swansea...

RUGBY LEAGUE Clubs with no homes

The Rugby League's decision to refuse extensions of the first and second division seasons is causing severe problems, particularly for teams attached to football clubs...

FOR THE RECORD

WEST HILLS: Peter and Steve Fourman... GOLF: Peter and Steve Fourman... TENNIS: Wimbledon...

SNOKER

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying rounds... AMERICAN LEAGUE: Kansas City Royals...

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Kansas City Royals, Boston Red Sox... NATIONAL LEAGUE: Atlanta Braves...

CURLING

REGINA, CANADA: World championship... SWITZERLAND: World championship...

Master of the classical style

Palairt was a Lancastrian of Huguenot stock. He was born at Grange-over-Sand, a place where I spent several happy holidays in youth...

Palairt: man of the perpendicular bat

He had a younger brother, Richard, who also played for Somerset, though nothing like so well. He became, however, secretary of the MCC side to Australia in the "bodyline" tour...

Alan Gibson

Peacetime camp prepared for victory march

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Peacetime, Ivano, Be My Native and Count Pahlen stood their ground overnight, so the group three Earl of Sefton Stakes promises to be the most interesting race at Newmarket today - so much so that it may well be the European Free Handicap, which is being sponsored by Ladbrokes for the first time.

Peacetime, Ivano and Count Pahlen all won classic trials last spring. Be My Native was not far behind the best of his age, as was borne out by his excellent effort towards the end of August at Arlington Park, near Chicago, where he was runner-up to Ferranti in the Budweiser Million.

My best news concerns Peacetime, who is said to be going to the backstretch where he is trained by Jeremy Tree, whose early forays this spring have already met with considerable success. Peacetime is also the form horse in today's select field of seven.

When he won the Guardian Classic Trial at Sandown towards the end of last April, Peacetime beat Be My Native by two lengths, what was then the second best in the field. A victory at Goodwood much later in the season proved beyond doubt that the operation that he had in July to improve his breathing was a complete success.

For the record Peacetime also beat Ivano by a length when they clashed in the Predominate Stakes at Goodwood in May. Prior to that Ivano had won both the Derby Stakes at Chester and the Gery Feilden Memorial Stakes over today's course and distance at this meeting, so Peacetime's best form stands up well under scrutiny.

The Irish Challenger, Stannera, would be a fly in the ointment at today's weights if she were to run as well as she did against Time Charter here in the autumn. However, Peacetime is preferred in the belief that he has come to himself already this spring in spite of the vile weather, just as he did at much the same time last year. As a result, Peacetime is a confident selection.

The field for this year's Free Handicap is the smallest since it began in 1929. Having come up with the auspicious 12 runners, it is thanks to a herculean effort on the part of Lester Piggott on Match-winner, Henry Cecil is hot on the trail of success again, this time with Salin, whose only defeat last year was at York in August when he

RACING: 2,000 GUINEAS PICTURE BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE



Muscatite holds the challenge of Spanish Place in Newmarket's Craven Stakes

Danzatore's extra tour of duty

By Michael Seely

Danzatore, the 6-4 favourite for the 2,000 Guineas, runs in the McCairn's Trial Stakes at Phoenix Park on Saturday. The well-thought-of 3-year-old finished fourth after looking dangerous a furlong from home, but Lyphard's Special was 12 lengths further away in last place.

"That was too bad to be true," Harwood said about the 5-4 favourite. The poet who wrote "Oh, to be in England now that April's here" was clearly not a racing man. However, despite the recent bitter weather, all five runners, with the exception of Spanish Place, looked well forward in condition. You could not fault the courage and stamina shown by Muscatite. It was just that he took a long time to find his stride before Brian Taylor sent him past Spanish Place close home to win by a neck.

"This is the best three-year-old I have ever trained," Jeremy Hindley said, "but Muscatite takes his time before quickening, and he races like a stayer. Unfortunately, although we have seen some good mile-and-a-half races, he is not a runner in the Stewards' Stakes. "He had a rotten time last season. He coughed, struck into himself and had an attack of ringworm. Bold Secret also had to be castrated," the trainer said. John Winter proved that his two-year-olds were in form when Novello sprinted six lengths clear of Mingsha in the Stewards' Stakes on Saturday. And finally, Bruce Hobbs had his second winner of the season when Salvia just beat the penalized One O'Clock Jump

Creator proved himself a leading candidate for the Chester Cup, with a 12-length victory in the Swaffham Handicap. Another Berkshire trainer, Henry Candy, had his first success of the season when Shore Line proved too strong for Floating Petal in the Elvedon Maiden Stakes. Henry Candy said that Robert Barnett's fly fister to Quay Line would now try to be a better than the same runner's time Charter, who finished runner-up to One on the House in last year's 1,000 Guineas.

Candy added that last season's Open and Champion Stakes winners, Time Charter, was working well, but that she was still backward in her coat. "I hope that she will be ready to run in the Westbury Stakes at Sandown." The trainer's Assistant, John Winter, said that she was still backward in her coat. "I hope that she will be ready to run in the Westbury Stakes at Sandown." The trainer's Assistant, John Winter, said that she was still backward in her coat.

Newmarket's narrow defeat of Spanish Place and Grms of Navarone. The well-thought-of 3-year-old finished fourth after looking dangerous a furlong from home, but Lyphard's Special was 12 lengths further away in last place. "That was too bad to be true," Harwood said about the 5-4 favourite.

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Gaselee to fly high on Another Breeze

By Dick Hinder

select field which includes Lord Leighton, Young Dusky and Solid Rock. Gaselee's near-neighbour, Nicky Henderson, will be hoping Amara can complete a treble in the three-mile Alpine Meadow Handicap. You're Welcome, who belied his odds of 25-1 with a promising second to Sandalay at the last Ascot meeting, is preferred.

All the runners in the Royal Free Novices' Chase have been placed over fences this season, without winning as a condition of entry. Membrance, who just failed to beat Henry Chalmers' exciting challenge at Chesham, has a sporting chance to break his duck.

Fred Winter's Acco Wild, after a lengthy absence, competes in Handicap company for the first time in the Triburn Handicap. He and his stablemate, Mr Mellors, can recover winning form in the Mahonia Hunters' Chase.

POINT-TO-POINT

No holding Nostradamus

By Ian Reid

The Haythrop's traditional four-mile race for the Lord Ashbur of Lyche Cup, run over four lengths ahead at the last where his rider, Alan Walter, lost an iron. Taking full advantage of his rival's inability to ride a finish, Gray Louisa made a valiant effort to get up on Mr. Batsac, but was still a length adrift at the post.

Windfall Penny, ridden by David Dando and backed down from 5-1 to 2-1, landed the game's impressive five out of six for lengths ahead at the last where his rider, Alan Walter, lost an iron. Taking full advantage of his rival's inability to ride a finish, Gray Louisa made a valiant effort to get up on Mr. Batsac, but was still a length adrift at the post.

At Horthorpe the Puckeridge and Thurlock ladies open an Allright and Union qualifier, was won by Parity, who had taken the PPOA members' race at dingley on Easter Saturday. Lucy Gibson brought Angora Green with a long, late run that took her to within two lengths of the winner, with Castella eight lengths away third in a field of 14.

TODAY'S FIXTURES: 1.000 Guineas (12.15), 2.000 Guineas (1.30), 3.000 Guineas (1.45), 4.000 Guineas (2.00), 5.000 Guineas (2.15), 6.000 Guineas (2.30), 7.000 Guineas (2.45), 8.000 Guineas (3.00), 9.000 Guineas (3.15), 10.000 Guineas (3.30), 11.000 Guineas (3.45), 12.000 Guineas (4.00), 13.000 Guineas (4.15), 14.000 Guineas (4.30), 15.000 Guineas (4.45), 16.000 Guineas (5.00), 17.000 Guineas (5.15), 18.000 Guineas (5.30), 19.000 Guineas (5.45), 20.000 Guineas (6.00), 21.000 Guineas (6.15), 22.000 Guineas (6.30), 23.000 Guineas (6.45), 24.000 Guineas (7.00), 25.000 Guineas (7.15), 26.000 Guineas (7.30), 27.000 Guineas (7.45), 28.000 Guineas (8.00), 29.000 Guineas (8.15), 30.000 Guineas (8.30), 31.000 Guineas (8.45), 32.000 Guineas (9.00), 33.000 Guineas (9.15), 34.000 Guineas (9.30), 35.000 Guineas (9.45), 36.000 Guineas (10.00), 37.000 Guineas (10.15), 38.000 Guineas (10.30), 39.000 Guineas (10.45), 40.000 Guineas (11.00), 41.000 Guineas (11.15), 42.000 Guineas (11.30), 43.000 Guineas (11.45), 44.000 Guineas (12.00), 45.000 Guineas (12.15), 46.000 Guineas (12.30), 47.000 Guineas (12.45), 48.000 Guineas (13.00), 49.000 Guineas (13.15), 50.000 Guineas (13.30), 51.000 Guineas (13.45), 52.000 Guineas (14.00), 53.000 Guineas (14.15), 54.000 Guineas (14.30), 55.000 Guineas (14.45), 56.000 Guineas (15.00), 57.000 Guineas (15.15), 58.000 Guineas (15.30), 59.000 Guineas (15.45), 60.000 Guineas (16.00), 61.000 Guineas (16.15), 62.000 Guineas (16.30), 63.000 Guineas (16.45), 64.000 Guineas (17.00), 65.000 Guineas (17.15), 66.000 Guineas (17.30), 67.000 Guineas (17.45), 68.000 Guineas (18.00), 69.000 Guineas (18.15), 70.000 Guineas (18.30), 71.000 Guineas (18.45), 72.000 Guineas (19.00), 73.000 Guineas (19.15), 74.000 Guineas (19.30), 75.000 Guineas (19.45), 76.000 Guineas (20.00), 77.000 Guineas (20.15), 78.000 Guineas (20.30), 79.000 Guineas (20.45), 80.000 Guineas (21.00), 81.000 Guineas (21.15), 82.000 Guineas (21.30), 83.000 Guineas (21.45), 84.000 Guineas (22.00), 85.000 Guineas (22.15), 86.000 Guineas (22.30), 87.000 Guineas (22.45), 88.000 Guineas (23.00), 89.000 Guineas (23.15), 90.000 Guineas (23.30), 91.000 Guineas (23.45), 92.000 Guineas (24.00), 93.000 Guineas (24.15), 94.000 Guineas (24.30), 95.000 Guineas (24.45), 96.000 Guineas (25.00), 97.000 Guineas (25.15), 98.000 Guineas (25.30), 99.000 Guineas (25.45), 100.000 Guineas (26.00).

Newmarket

Draw no advantage. Tote Double 3.10 and 4.10. Treble 2.35, 3.40 and 4.40. [Television (TV) 2.35, 3.10 and 3.40 races]

Table with columns for race name, time, and list of horses with their jockeys and odds.

Haydock Park

Tote double: 3.15, 4.15. Treble: 2.45, 3.45, 4.45. Draw advantage: 6/5 and over low.

Table with columns for race name, time, and list of horses with their jockeys and odds.

Hamilton Park

Draw advantage: middle to high numbers best.

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Ascot NH

Tote double: 3.05, 4.10. Treble: 2.30, 3.40, 4.40. [Television (BBC1) 2.30, 3.05 and 3.40 races]

Table with columns for race name, time, and list of horses with their jockeys and odds.

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TENNIS

A head older than its years

By Lewine Mair

After an opening day of rain, overnight frost played havoc with the shale courts at the Edgbaston Archery Club and it was not until luncheon that first-round play was got under way in the 16-and-under British Open archery championship, sponsored by Prudential.

With a day and a half's play lost, the girls were quickly upfitted and taken to nearby Tully Ho. There, in a cruddy swelter, some among the competitors was at her best; but there was a heroic performance from Amanda Brasher who, in winning 4-6, 7-6, 7-5 against Clare Abbott, of Berkshire, saved no fewer than six match points.

Anne Simpkin, the 14-and-under hard court champion, yesterday did to the fourth seed what she had done to the seventh seed in the 18-and-under championships at Wimbledon a week ago.

In defeating Ruth Charlton 7-6, 6-2 to provide the only seeding upset of the first round among the boys and girls, Miss Simpkin moved particularly well on the slippery surface and, in the testing conditions, used her head better than many an older girl.

Miss Charlton, a tall, rangy competitor who can look marvelously athletic about the court, was having trouble on her forehead wing, all too often taking the ball there.

There have been many occasions when one has come across little Linda Harvey giving a bigger and more illustrious competitor a real fight. Yesterday Miss Egan moved something of a shock in losing her opening set 6-1 to the little-known Veronica Asquith, of Yorkshire. Miss Asquith, a tall, well-built girl, did some splendid work at the net before eventually taking flight.

Christine Gillies, of Hampshire, put an end to an inspired Easter run by Sue McCarthy, of Avon. Miss McCarthy, who followed her win in the 14-and-under Grand Finals at the David Lloyd tennis centre by winning the 16-and-under and 14-and-under singles in the Bristol Junior tournament, yesterday picked up only one game. A disappointing result but not one to worry about.

Champion comeback

Los Angeles (Reuters) - Stan Smith, of the United States, a former Wimbledon champion, rolled back the years with a straight-sets win over Victor Amaya, his compatriot, in the first round of the \$255,000 Pacific Southwest Open.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Threat of boycott removed

There will be no change in the Commonwealth Games Council's code of conduct until at least next year. When the council's advisory committee met in London today the code, which calls for a total ban on sporting links with South Africa was not discussed.

Father Heady, the Commonwealth Games Federation chairman, said he knew that England had proposed alterations to the code but they would not be discussed until the fall session in Los Angeles next summer.

The immediate threat of a boycott of the next Games in Edinburgh in 1986 is therefore lifted. But with England's Rugby Union team considering playing in South Africa next summer, and MCC being asked to send a team to the republic this winter, it promises to be only a temporary respite before the anti-apartheid lobby start again.

Mr Heady said he had a report from the newly-formed finance committee. "We want to find ways of easing the financial burden on organizing committees," Mr Heady said. "The committee's proposals are all about the small countries and we don't want them to be under any burden."

GYMNASTICS

Soviet fall-out at Wembley

Soviet gymnasts have withdrawn from the Champions All International tournament at Wembley on Saturday. The event, which is in its fourteenth year, is one of the three leading World competitions, but the Soviet Union have not, in recent years, won a gold medal.

The competing countries will be Cuba, United States, China, East Germany, Japan, Canada, Bulgaria and Britain. Cuba are favourites for gold medals in the men's competition and Bulgaria in the women's.

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Kick-off 7.30 unless stated. Second fixture Derby v Charlton.

Table with columns for time, fixture, and venue.

FOOTBALL

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Table with columns for time, fixture, and venue.

Newmarket results

Table with columns for race name, winner, and other details.

Haydock Park selections

Table with columns for race name, selection, and odds.

Hamilton Park

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RUGBY UNION

First Division: London v Northampton.

Table with columns for time, fixture, and venue.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 404/101250

GOLF: BALLESTEROS THE MASTER

Spaniard tames himself as well as the course

From A Special Correspondent Augusta, Georgia

Severiano Ballesteros won his second Masters in three years with disciplined performance here that belied his reputation as a wild hitter.



Ballesteros embraces his caddy and his second Masters

The 26-year-old Spaniard mastered the wind and the wiles of a rain-soaked Augusta National course on Monday to score a four-stroke victory with an eight-under-par total of 280. He picked up four strokes on the first four holes and then played cool, conservative golf, with pars on the final six holes, to win the first prize of \$90,000 with a round of 69.

Ballesteros seized the initiative from his closest rivals, who included three other former champions, with a birdie on the opening hole to pull away from the lead. On the 555-yard second hole he drove his approach shot soared 245 yards to the green where it came to rest 15 feet from the flag. The eagle putt was true and Ballesteros suddenly enjoyed a two-stroke lead which he never surrendered.

After narrowly missing a birdie putt at the next hole he struck a two-foot, two-shot just two feet from the flag at the short fourth for another birdie.

Ballesteros said the first four holes were the key to his victory. "I played four under the first four holes. That put me nine under and sent my confidence straight up".

The United States and British Open Champion, Tom Watson, playing with Ballesteros, made a brief challenge when he rolled in a long eagle putt at the eighth to close the gap to two strokes, but he fell away, needing three putts at the next three greens.

Ben Crenshaw and Tom Kite, with a 68 and a 69 respectively, were joint runners-up on 284, one ahead of Watson and Ray Floyd, with Craig Stadler and Greg Norman on 286. Kite said he felt like a Chevrolet trying to catch a Ferrari.

Stadler and Floyd began the round as joint leaders, one ahead of Ballesteros and two in front of Watson as four Masters champions headed the field in the clubhouse. But the other three had no answer to the Spaniard's opening play and Stadler fell back with a 76, Floyd with a 75 and Watson with a 73.

Although no serious challenge came Ballesteros played aggressively down the homeward stretch and then delighted the gallery by

chipping into the hole at the 18th to save par in a final flourish. He missed only one fairway all day, at the 13th, where he still managed to save par, giving credence to his statement earlier in the week that his reputation as a wild hitter was exaggerated. "I just tried to play the course and be cool, that's all", he said.

Final scores from Augusta

Table with columns for player name, score, and other statistics. Includes names like Ballesteros, Crenshaw, Kite, Watson, Floyd, Stadler, Norman, Hallberg, Couper, Beach, Stewart, Palmer, Higgins, Condy, Edwards, Halseth, Haskelley, Lietz, J. Blair, H. Blair, Graham, Brewer, Shearer, and Pesto.

Eventing: Badminton's youngest competitor

Ambitious contender who has Mrs Green in her sights

Karen Straker, the reigning European junior champion, is the youngest competitor to enter this year's Badminton Horse Trials. At eighteen and a half she is six months over the minimum age; some consider it unduly young for a horse.



Miss Straker and Running Bear on winning trail at Rotherfield

Miss Straker is unimpressed, perhaps remembering that Richard Walker, at the same age, became the youngest Badminton winner ever in 1969 riding Pasha. He, too, was European junior champion at the time. Miss Straker says calmly: "I'm not nervous yet but I expect I shall be on the day."

The vast crowds which Badminton always attracts will be new to her and her horse, Running Bear, but Miss Straker has reassured herself by speaking to other riders. "They all say you don't notice the crowds when you're going round and in a sense they channel you into the fence because the course is the only place where there aren't people". Miss Straker's philosophical approach is born of a strong back-up team and her own ability. After all, she has qualified in a year when the qualification is stiffer than ever.

The youngest of five children (the other are all boys), Miss Straker comes from a family where anyone who showed talent in a horse was given the opportunity to develop it. Her mother, Elaine, is the driving force. A former eventer and point-to-pointer Mrs Straker has a gift both for teaching and for finding the right horse for her offspring. She is also well acquainted with Badminton. Two of her sons have competed there on the family's home-bred George, the horse which carried Lucinda Green (then Prior-Palmer) to victory in 1977.

Running Bear, a 10-year-old gelding, was one of Mrs Straker's "finds". Unusually for an eventer he is a former steeplechaser (he was trained by Arthur Stephenson) and came to Mrs Straker's attention when she was asked by his own hunter trainer to help train him for local trials and events. Mrs Straker saw and appreciated the tremendous scope of the horse. He is the only horse that Mrs Straker had bought "made". All the others which have passed through the family home at Chop Gate on the North Yorkshire Moors have either been bred at home or although broken in, still needed to be retrained to start a career as an eventer. He justified the Strakers' confidence, being upgraded in one season from novice to advanced.

The form which has given Miss Straker her champion status and qualified her for Badminton is impressive (the new Badminton qualification allows only Grade I horses and they must have come in the first 10 at two advanced

competitions in the last two years). After a successful career in the Pony Club - first the Zealand and then the Hurworth - on a horse called Peppercorn she became, at 15, one of Britain's "junior squad". At the same time as Peppercorn, she had another horse Barclay, on which she was short-listed for the European junior championships in 1980.

Unfortunately Barclay went over backwards in the yard and crushed his withers so badly that he had to be put down. She continued with Peppercorn, representing Britain on him as a junior in Belgium in 1981 when the team was second and Miss Straker won the individual class. She knew, however, that Peppercorn did not have the necessary scope to carry her into senior competition.

It was at this stage that Running Bear made his timely appearance. In the autumn of 1981 Miss Straker won three intermediate classes in a row with her new partner. The next year, at Rotherfield in Hampshire, they became junior European champions and over the last 12 months Miss Straker has more than held her own against the seniors.

Unlike many of her fellow competitors Miss Straker is not a "full-time" eventer - at least not yet. She is halfway through a business studies course at St Godric's College, London, which she sees as another way of getting work during the winter.

Jenny MacArthur

WOMEN'S HOCKEY: MORE PROGRESS IN WORLD EVENTS

England drop second group point

From Joyce Whitehead, Kuala Lumpur

England, though still unbested in the World Cup tournament for women, dropped their second group point yesterday in a 1-1 draw with Argentina and must be worried about their qualification for Group B for a place in the semi-final round.

This was the first time that an England side had entered a group stage against Argentina since the Falklands crisis. Each side was tactically defensive and neither was able to keep the game flowing.

England looked solid in the first half and Argentina scored in the half and Argentina scored in the 23rd minute when Monica Chelillo put the finishing touch on a good passing movement started on the right wing. England's defence was kept busy after that, but there were

too few attackers to achieve the desired result. In the second half, contributed greatly to their success. Australia were lucky to beat India 3-2 in the World Cup match which started at 7.30am. India were two goals up before Australia made the score 2-1 at half-time.

The United Kingdom teams and Ireland have no matches today but England play New Zealand, and Scotland play Wales in the World Cup tomorrow.

WORLD CUP, Group A: Australia 3, India 2. Group B: England 1, Argentina 1; West Germany 2, Soviet Union 0; New Zealand 2, Canada 1. INTER-CONTINENTAL CUP, Group B: Japan 5, Hong Kong 1; Belgium 2, South Korea 1; India 1, Australia 0; France 0.

La crème de la crème

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Our client, a well known Secretarial Agency wishes to strengthen its team with the introduction of an experienced Consultant. Consultants with this company deal with all aspects of recruitment, the emphasis being on good consultancy work, professional client management and teamwork.

You will probably be 27 to 35, well educated, but above all well presented, competent and confident. You will have had at least two years' experience in a professional agency, or will be able to show prior experience in a similar creative executive situation.

You are the kind of person who will regard the satisfaction and respect you will get for a job well done as a highly important part of your reward, but the right person will earn a basic salary of £12,500 pa, a company car, PPP, profit share and other incentives which make the total package worth approximately £20,000.

Applicants should forward a full CV, listing separately those companies to whom their details should not be sent and quoting ref. 1613 on their envelope. All letters will be sent directly to our client.

Charles Barker

RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING SERVICES

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CENTACOM EXECUTIVE STAFF SECRETARY PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Our client, a large West-End based company, seek an exceptional secretary (25-35) for the top executive who has responsibilities involving all company activities to board room level. In addition to excellent shorthand and typewriting skills, the successful candidate will be adaptable, quick-thinking, diplomatic, level-headed under pressure, and possess administrative flair.

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Agreed 25+, numerate, with a good standard of education, you will need to have had at least 5 years' experience at Director level. As well as shorthand/typing speeds of 100/60 wpm, you must also have the ability to communicate with all levels of staff and be able to work on your own initiative, often under pressure. A flexible approach to hours is also essential. Word processing experience desirable although training will be given.

Salaries will be up to £9,000 according to age and experience. Other benefits include subsidised lunch-break facilities, local car parking, staff discounts etc. For an application form please telephone Rosie Wilson on 01-222 9050. No agencies please.

CHEF & BREWER LIMITED

Senior Medical Secretary - Saudi Arabia

c. £13,320 p.a. inc. tax free Allied Medical Group are British consultants to the prestigious 660 bed Riyadh Al Khair Hospital Programme. We now seek a Medical Transcription Supervisor to manage the day-to-day operations of the transcription pool at the hospital in Riyadh. This will involve ensuring high standards in quality and quantity of work liaison with medical and other hospital personnel; providing training and ensuring motivation of staff. You will need to be well educated and have a medical secretarial qualification with at least two years' experience - two of which should have been in a supervisory capacity. Demonstrable management ability and highly developed interpersonal skills are essential. The tax free salary (based on 5.0 Saudi Riyals = £1) includes a bonus of one month's salary for each 12 months satisfactory service. In addition, this single status two year contract basic salary attracts one of the best packages in the Middle East. For full details please write quoting Ref RKH 718 to: Theresa Satterthwaite, Senior Personnel Officer, Allied Medical Group, 18 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1P 0DZ. Alternatively, call our 24 hour answering service on 01-739 5339, quoting the reference number.

ST THOMAS'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL (United Medical Schools) LONDON, SE1 7EH

DEAN'S SECRETARY / STUDENT ADMISSIONS SECRETARY required Apart from normal secretarial duties for the Dean, the appointee will be responsible for the secretarial work connected with Student Admissions, dealing with applicants through the UCAS system and will assist to a graduate secretary with a minimum of two years' experience, to start on 1st August, 1983. Applications in writing to Mrs Dear, Dean's Office.

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We need an experienced PA/Secretary 25-40 used to pressure with excellent skills. Small West End office. Salary c. £8,500. Present Secretary has transferred to Paris. Call John Steak on 01-839 4953 for more information.

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SECRETARY/PA Director of compiling press group requires a Secretary/PA preferably with experience in PR press or marketing. Must be willing to work by itself and cope with a swift and unorthodox workflow. Small office, Central London. General salary, 4-yearly work a possibility. Write with CV to Box No 10693 at The Times.

VIDEO Fast expanding video/co specializing in videoing arts requires Senior Secretary for Business Affairs Manager. WP and/or legal experience an advantage. Tel 894 2300, Ext 35.

PRACTICE MANAGER required for busy NW6 general practice from 1st May. £6,000-£8,000 p.a. with excellent benefits and pension. Must be willing to relocate to convenience but within the price £7,000 - £8,000 p.a. 01-328 1893

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The UK Sales Company are currently seeking a high calibre Secretary for their Sales Department. Responsibilities will include looking after the Regional Sales Manager and Sales force, general administration and liaison with Inside Sales Administration and other internal departments.

Excellent secretarial skills are essential and applicants should be well organised and highly motivated to deal with this challenging position. A good working knowledge of Italian would be an asset.

A competitive salary is offered. Please reply in confidence giving concise career and personal details to: Mrs M Deam Enzyco Chemical Limited John Busch House 277 London Road Isleworth, Middlesex

PA/SECRETARY to the chairman

c. £7,500

With the creation of the new Richmond, Twickenham & Roehampton Health Authority, plans to ensure we make the best possible use of all our many facilities are now taking shape. It is an interesting time for us of change and development. As PA/SECRETARY to the Chairman you would hold a highly demanding, but extremely interesting post and would be greatly involved in the progress of this new Authority. Although previous medical experience is not essential you must be somebody of considerable experience and maturity with impeccable secretarial skills, who has held a position as personal assistant before. You'll need to have plenty of initiative and organisational ability.

We work a 36 hour week, offer 4 weeks annual holiday and have a wide range of sports and social facilities. For further details and an application form contact our District Personnel Office, District Offices, Richmond, Twickenham & Roehampton H.A., Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, London SW15. Tel: 01-789 7971, ext. 31.

Course I'm alright for another 18 holes, old man. Our temporaries run the office by themselves now we're getting them from... Senior Secretaries

City 01-406 9111/WEST END 01-488 8082 The first numbers to ring

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Boehm (pronounced Beam) require a well educated Sales Consultant with drive and enthusiasm to run their concession shop in Harrods. Please apply to Sarah Hazras, Boehm of Malvern England Ltd, Tomhouse Lane, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 1JG. Telephone: (0886) 321111

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GET INTO BANKING £8,000-£7,000+600 Liverpool Street ALL BANKING BENEFITS Prestigious Merchant Bank seek a well educated, well presented Secretary. Paris Inc. sub. restaurant, sub. mortgage etc. Call Faxley Recruitment 247 1629/1620

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Central Services Manager

The College, based in London is the academic Headquarters of General Medical Practitioners in the UK and Eire. The object is to promote high standards of patient care in General Practice through its Standard Setting, educational and research activities.

The Central Services Manager (a new appointment) will be responsible to the College's Administrator for managing and developing a group of secretarial staff in the office providing central services for the College Council its Committees and its Officers and for supervising the day to day running and maintenance of the college's headquarters at Princess Gate. The successful applicant will have proven leadership qualities and will have the management, technical and secretarial skills needed for a modern office.

The salary will be in the range £18,000 - £12,000 pa including London Weighting. There is a compulsory contributory pension scheme.

Further information may be obtained from Mr D. Lloyd-Williams, THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS, 14 PRINCESS GATE, HYDE PARK, LONDON SW7 1PU.

The closing date for applications is within two weeks of the appearance of this advertisement.

CONFIDENTIALLY

The Export Sales and Marketing Director of this International Engineering Company wants a first class Secretary/PA. This is a job with plenty of interest and involvement with a wide range of export sales and marketing activities. He requires a Secretary with excellent shorthand, typing and administrative skills coupled with flexibility, a pleasant disposition, and the ability to take responsibility and cope with the pressures at peak times. Previous experience of working in a similar capacity would, of course, be ideal but a sound knowledge of office procedures would be equally beneficial. Likely age would be 24-35. We are conveniently based near Euston and Mornington Crescent Stations and as you would imagine the salary band benefits are commensurate with the position. Please send a career resume or telephone for further information, Diane Roberts, Foster Wheeler Power Products Limited, Greater London House, Hampstead Road, London NW1 7CN. Tel 01-589 1212 ext 262.

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£9,500 + Mortgage

An outstanding Secretary (FF) with good skills is needed to work for a newly appointed senior Executive. This main area of responsibility will be new business and he will therefore need a well-organized, energetic Secretary/Assistant, preferably with banking experience and the ability to communicate with clients at all levels. Age 25-40. Speeds 100/80.

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If you are keen to develop a career in computers and move out of the secretarial field, we have an exciting opportunity for you working as an assistant in the fast moving computer dept. of a prestigious firm of international bankers, you will be given a thorough training and plenty of responsibility in the challenging and fast moving environment. Typing 60 wpm, some WP experience helpful. Age 20-25, superb offices near Cannon Street, £17,500 + benefits.

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To assist newly appointed Head of Corporate Finance department in private Swiss investment bank. First class skills (shorthand included) together with 5 years experience (preferably in a legal or merchant banking environment. Some word processing experience would be useful. Salary c. £7,000. Please send CV to Elizabeth Tager, Gurney International Securities Ltd, Samson House, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

Handwritten signature or text at the bottom of the page.

La crème de la crème

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NO SHORTHAND £7,500
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Our client the Managing Director of an organisation closely connected to the world of broadcasting seeks a PA/Secretary/Administrator. Good ability essential, shorthand an asset.

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INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS Conference Organiser

The Institute of Directors is a professional body for business leaders. Its expanding programme of conferences plays a vital part in supporting the Institute's objectives.

We seek an experienced organiser who will be capable of handling conferences and event arrangements from planning and budgeting through to successful presentation of the event. The successful candidate, who will have already spent some time in the conference business, will have established typing and shorthand skills and is unlikely to be under 25 years of age.

Reporting to the Director of External Relations, the conference organiser will enjoy an advantageous schedule of hours.

Salary range up to £9,000 p.a. according to age and experience.

Please apply in writing to The Personnel Officer, Institute of Directors, 118 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5ED.

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Our Chairman is looking for a new secretary. An articulate, confident organiser with good shorthand and some understanding of a public company is sought. The ability to work from one's own initiative is essential. There will be a certain amount of personal work for the Chairman too.

We are a fast growing public company, specialising in advertising contractors, and we are offering a highly competitive remuneration package.

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London W2 1PT

Secretary

An interesting opportunity has arisen for a presentable young secretary to work for the Marketing team of the F.T. Conference Organisation.

Applicants should have good shorthand/typing skills (100/60 wpm), the ability to work under pressure and a sense of humour. Word processing experience would be useful.

Salary £8,148 p.a. (increase pending)
5 weeks holiday after one year

If you are interested please write to:
Jennifer Davies, Personnel Officer
Financial Times Business Enterprises
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£5,000
(Day Rate)
A major City financial bank requires a high-calibre PA/Secretary to work on a confidential "top-secret" basis with the Executive Director of their Mergers and Acquisitions Dept. Applicant must be a native English speaker with fluency in French and German as well as having a near-perfect command of both languages in the spoken word. English secretarial skills must be good (100/60) although this is very much a PA position where the ability to work under pressure is important. Age 24-30. Excellent benefits including mortgage subsidy.

WEST END
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£29,000 p.a. London, W.1
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JENNY ADLINGTON
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SALARY £7,500 NEG
Successful small company involved in publishing requires 2 Directors' Secretaries to work for the Chief Executive and Financial Director. Minimum speeds 120/60 wpm. Applicants must be well organised, numerate, self-motivated and aged between 25 and 50.

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We are a small recruitment Unit within an offshore engineering company and urgently require a competent, enthusiastic and hardworking secretary. The successful applicant will undertake general secretarial duties, record keeping and a small amount of filing. On occasions there will be a vast amount of telephone work and applicants must therefore be able to communicate easily with people at all levels. Applicants should possess excellent typing skills, a sense of humour and a high level of motivation. Word processing training will be given if necessary.

Please apply in writing to:
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PA/SECRETARY FOR MANAGING DIRECTOR - HENDON

This is a job for a bright, experienced and non-smoking PA/Secretary with high ability and good sense who has experience at Director level and excellent secretarial skills. A knowledge of German/French is useful. The company is a family firm with multiple interests in the USA and Germany.

Would best suit single person, around 30. Starting date should be no later than June 1st. Excellent salary offered.

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PER Executive Selection

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Yes, to minimum of 3 -
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2. Financial background enabling understanding of work environment.
3. French speaking, to work in Paris, minimum twice a year.
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Managing Director of international trading company requires a first class bi-lingual secretary. English/French with excellent secretarial skills, tea experience and ability to cope under pressure fluent French is an essential requirement plus the confidence and ability to liaise at all levels.

Salary £7,000 negotiable, to start immediately.

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Flexible and Experienced Audio Secretary

required (25-45) working with another Secretary for a small friendly team (managing director and 3 executives) located in superb West End, Marble Arch, building of a public property company. £7,700 p.a. + bonus, 4 weeks' holiday and BUPA. Please telephone Mr Ronald Gerrard, 01-629 6831.

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MID 20's +
Min 5 'O' levels including Maths. Must have worked in an accounts office before and have a working knowledge of double entry bookkeeping. Experience in Apple based systems an asset. Sales and purchase ledgers and routine accounting work. 4 weeks holiday, L.V.s, BUPA. Please ring Mrs Jones on 437 3108 for an appointment.

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MD of the European organization of a Canadian investment group requires a Secretary with experience at this level who will be responsible for the efficient organization of the office. No shorthand; knowledge of German a distinct advantage. Pleasant office in St. James's. Salary £9,000. Ring David Brewer 699 6672 for further details.

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International Import Company requires a young energetic secretary to work closely with their Director on fashion swimwear.

Good shorthand/typing skills and a willingness to learn.

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RECEPTIONIST/ SECRETARY

£7,000
An experienced switchboard operator/shorthand typist required by a major City financial institution. The successful applicant will be responsible for the reception of all incoming calls and the efficient handling of all correspondence. Excellent fringe benefits including overtime payments.

499 9175
MacBlain MASH
Recruitment Consultants
10 Grosvenor Square, London, W1

MALE SECRETARY SAUDI ARABIA

£11,500 Tax free + bonus
The American based of a Saudi Arabian firm needs a Secretary with good shorthand and typing to assist him with his international work as Agent for projects throughout the country. You'll join a small team in Riyadh initially on a year's contract (initially renewable).
Please ring 01 491 7180

COMMODITIES £9,000+

This opportunity will appeal to an ambitious and flexible individual seeking a career in a fast moving environment. As Secretary to the three directors of this prestigious City firm you will need to be a self-starter, able to think on your feet and have at least 3 years' experience in Finance related work. 'A' levels preferred. Age 25-35.

RING 588 3535
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Recruitment Consultants

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

The Design Advisory Service of The Design Council provides help to companies by identifying and examining design problems and advising on how to solve them, usually by recommending an appropriate external specialist.

A PA is required by a manager within the Service. The work will be of a responsible nature and will include contact with senior industrialists and designers.

Applicants must be experienced secretaries with shorthand/typing speeds of approximately 100/40 wpm and a good telephone manner. A keen eye for detail and the ability to maintain accurate records are required.

The starting salary will be up to £6,128 per annum (under review) plus proficiency allowances for higher speeds, and there are excellent conditions of employment, including flextime.

For further details and an application form please contact:
Miss Rita Kemp
Personnel Officer
The Design Council
28 Haymarket
London SW1Y 4SU
Telephone 01-839 8000 ext 37.

Bi-lingual Circ £6,500

A busy personality, you will work hard & a good working knowledge of French are essential qualities for this exciting role. A number of a Swedish group of companies. Because they are liberal it is important that the candidate should be creative, able to work on their own initiative. Good skills (100/60) with at least 2 years experience are essential. Training on word processor will be given. Age 25+.

Please telephone Juliet White or 01-499 7777
GORDON JAMES LTD
35 Old Bond St. W.1.
(Recruitment Consultants)

PA/SECRETARY (Shorthand/Audio)

required to work for partner of leading estate agents. He requires capable and capable person willing to work on own initiative and must have experience at partner level. Friendly people, new office, excellent salary, L.V.s, PPF and 3 weeks' holiday. Please ring Mr Bernard Gordon on 01-486 1252.

TEMPORARY STAFF VICTORIA

Due to the high demand for top calibre temporary staff, we are in urgent need of the following people:
Senior secretaries 110/60 - £3,800+
Word processor operators - 1yr exp - £4,500
Auditory typists - 50+ wpm - £3,200+

Candidates must have a minimum of 2 years experience in a similar role, plus a right, flexible attitude towards temporary work.

Contact Mrs McMurtry on 828 8784
Kingfisher Press, Coxs.

TELEPHONE SALES WEST LONDON

Due to expansion this international sales organization is seeking a minimum of 2 years' experience. The successful applicant will be responsible for the efficient organization of the office. No shorthand; knowledge of German a distinct advantage. Pleasant office in St. James's. Salary £9,000. Ring David Brewer 699 6672 for further details.

CHAIRMAN'S SECRETARY

£8,000 + Mortgage
As one of a Secretary working for this well-known public company in the City of London, you will need confidence, initiative and a high level of organization. You will be responsible for the efficient organization of the office. No shorthand; knowledge of German a distinct advantage. Pleasant office in St. James's. Salary £9,000. Ring David Brewer 699 6672 for further details.

Setliff's Collectors Department

We are seeking a flexible Secretary aged 20-46 with some previous experience to join this busy department. The job is varied and will involve a lot of client contact. Speeds of 100/50 are required and there will be a 10% bonus. Salary c.£8,000.

Contact Ann Weller
01-493 8980

PA/SECRETARY WITH FRENCH

If you are looking for a varied and exciting career, we have a job for you. This is an exciting job in a new and growing company. You will be responsible for the efficient organization of the office. No shorthand; knowledge of German a distinct advantage. Pleasant office in St. James's. Salary £9,000. Ring David Brewer 699 6672 for further details.

PA SECRETARY International Law Firm

A first-class PA/Secretary is required to assist busy senior partner of an international law firm. The ideal applicant will have previous legal experience, be an accurate audio typist, able to deal with simple book-keeping, and prepared to keep calm under pressure. This is an interesting post for someone willing to accept responsibility and work on own initiative. Pleasant modern office WC2. Salary c. £9,000.

Please contact Carole Kettner on 242 2288.
No Agencies Please

SAVOIR FAIRE? Salary £6,000

As one of a team of 4 within this prestigious recruitment consultancy your responsibilities will include client liaison at the highest level, participating in internal staff liaisons and ensuring the reception area is kept in pristine condition. If you have 'A' levels, excellent presentation and secretarial skills plus one year's experience and all the social graces then contact: Miss Jones on 821 1808.

Price Jameson
8 Theobalds Way
London W1P 0JH

CHAIRMAN'S SECRETARY

£8,000 + Mortgage
As one of a Secretary working for this well-known public company in the City of London, you will need confidence, initiative and a high level of organization. You will be responsible for the efficient organization of the office. No shorthand; knowledge of German a distinct advantage. Pleasant office in St. James's. Salary £9,000. Ring David Brewer 699 6672 for further details.

SECRETARY

Well educated legal audio secretary or young partner in Holborn Solicitors. Preferred age 22-30.

Salary £8,500 +
Telephone Bruce Coles
242 0801
(No Agencies)

CITY DIRECTORS PA/SEC £8,000

For young Directors of major City financial institutions. Age 22-40. Must be able to work in a fast moving environment. Excellent fringe benefits including overtime payments.

01-499 7777
GORDON JAMES LTD
35 Old Bond St. W.1.
(Recruitment Consultants)

CAREER OPPORTUNITY £10,000

To join the Managing Director of Advertising Agency, this is a responsible PA position needing a very capable confident person with excellent normal skills, (100/60) and a solid work history.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
18 Grosvenor Street London W1
Telephone 01-499 8070

EXCEPTIONAL RECEPTIONIST

required by up-market Advertising Agency. Excellent appearance and capable with excellent presentation skills. Please telephone Personnel Officer on 01 433 3122

GRADUATE/PA UP TO £9,000

Only apply if you have the following qualifications and would like to work in Publishing. Age 25-30. Excellent salary. Part French and German.

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MacBlain MASH
JAYGARD

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Cummins Engine Company Ltd the worlds largest independent producer of diesel engines has a vacancy for a Secretary/Personnel Assistant.

If you have:
- A Levels or are a recent graduate
- Excellent secretarial skills
- Aspirations to move into administration
- An interest in Personnel

We can offer you an interesting position with approximately 50% secretarial work & 50% administration.

Location New Malden/South West London. If you are interested in this position please call Janet Turner on 01-949-6171.

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1
6.00 Ceefax AM. News headlines, weather, sport and traffic reports. Also available to those with a television set without the Teletext facility.
6.30 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selma Woodhead. At 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15. This morning's guest is Tracey Ullman. Closedown at 9.00.
12.30 News After Noon. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only) financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One includes film of the judging of the National Fashion Awards; a discussion with Anton Dolin; and a song from Britain's Eurovision Song Contest representatives. Sweet Dreams. 1.45 The Flumps. 2.00 Lord Byron Lived Here. Peter Porter visits Southsea.
2.15 Racing from Ascot introduced by Richard Patten. Live coverage of the Royal Fern Novices Steeplechase (2.30); the Peasro Duff Novices Hurdle (3.05); the Albion Meadow Hurdle (3.40). The commentators are Peter O'Sullivan and John Hamner. 3.53 Regional news (not London).
3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC2). 4.20 Cartoon: Boss Cat. 4.45 Take Hart. 5.05 Newsworld. 5.10 The Story of the Treasure Seekers. Part two.
5.40 News 5.00 South East at Six.
6.25 Nationwide includes the first or four reports on Our National Health. The reporter is John Ichkins.
6.50 Triangle. Episode four.
7.15 Wildlife on One: Shipwreck. The film that won the award for the Outstanding Short Film at the 1982 International Wildlife Film Festival. The film shows the amazing marine life that is living in and around the wreck of the American Liberty ship, James Edgar Lane, which sank in 1945 just off Whitesands Bay in Cornwall.
7.40 Open All Hours. Arkwright decides that he can increase his profits if he cuts out the middle man. What he needs is a product that can be homemade and have a daily demand. Granville is deputised to find this elusive product.
8.10 Dallas. Bobby, who naively thought that his struggle with JR for control of Ewing Oil was over, has his illusions shattered when he discovers a box of Cuban cigars.
9.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Conservative Party.
9.05 News.
9.30 Q.E.D.: Faster than the Sun. A trip in Concorde timed from the flight deck, the passenger cabin and on the ground. But what is the future for the fabulous plane? Q.E.D. talks to Sir Stanley Hooker, Pierre Young and Brian Trubshaw.
10.00 Sportnight introduced by Harry Carpenter. Boxing and Yachting are featured tonight. Desmond Lyncham is in Preston for the A.B.A. semifinals and Tony Gubba reports on Britain's latest bid to win the America's Cup. Britain's hopes rest on 12 metre yacht, Victory, the product of a multi-million pound campaign to produce a challenger.
10.58 News headlines.
11.00 Chicago Story: Subterranean Blues. Detective Wjorski tries to infiltrate a gang run by a ruthless hoodlum. Starring Vincent Baggettta.
12.10 Weather.

TV-am
6.00 Daybreak presented by Gavin Scott followed at 6.30 by Good Morning Britain with Arma Ford and Nick Owen. News at 6.00, 6.20, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00; city news at 6.15; morning paper review at 6.33 and 6.53; pop video at 6.50; television reviewed and previewed at 7.50; Robert Stevens of the National Theatre interviewed at 8.40; behind a celebrity's front door at 8.55; Closedown at 9.15
ITV/LONDON
9.30 Sesame Street. Learning made fun with the Muppets 10.30 Science International, narrated by Michael Bentine 10.35 Database. A look at what is on offer at the National Computer Centre (r) 11.00 The Wild, Wild World of Animals. A film about the sharks that breed and feed off Florida's western coast 11.30 Film Fun. Comedy and cartoons presented by Derek Griffiths (r)
12.00 Rod, Jane and Freddy with a story about the characters in Wizzard comic 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets 12.30 Play It Again. Ray Alan is Tony Bibow's guest and he talks about his career and chooses clips from his favourite films 3.53 Regional news (not London)
1.00 News 1.20 Thames news with Robin Houston. 1.30 Crown Court Continuing the case of the nightclub owner and manager who are accused of manslaughter following a fire on the premises which killed 17 people (r) 2.00 A Plus
2.30 Racing from Newmarket. Live coverage of the Earl of Seaton Stakes (2.35); the Ladbroke European Free Handicap (3.10); and the Abernethy Stakes (3.40) Introduced by Brough Scott
4.00 Rod, Jane and Freddy. A repeat of the programme shown at noon 4.15 Dangerous. Episode three and the professor has a monstrous show 4.20 The Story Show. A new series featuring Matthew Corbett and his 4.30 Cartoons. Roadrunner in Highway Runny 4.45 Murphy's Mob. Part 11 of the drama about a fourth division football club 5.15 Mr and Mrs. Three married couples in a quiz to see how much they know about their respective spouse 5.45 News 6.00 Thames news 6.25 Help! presented by Nancy Robertson
6.30 Crossroads. Oliver Banks and his daughter, Penny, have a distressing scene in public 7.00 Carry On Laughing. A compilation of some of the more funny moments from the successful series of Carry On films
7.30 Coronation Street. A public protest meeting against the proposed project is organised by Ken Barlow
8.00 This is Your Life. Eamonn Andrews and his red book suppress another stunned celebrity
9.00 Widows. Episode five and the ladies have completed the preparation for the raid on the security van
10.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Conservative Party
10.05 News followed by Thames News headlines
10.35 Thames Sport Special. Derek Thompson introduces five-a-side football on Wembley Arena where 14 teams are competing for the Standard trophy.
11.35 Mannix. When he investigates the theft of a famous diamond collection Mannix meets Hamilton Starr, a ruthless villain who is also blind.
12.30 Close with Brian Blessed



David Schofield as Ernest Shackleton: BBC-2 9.30pm

Tonight sees the start of a four-part drama documentary SHACKLETON (BBC 2, 9.30pm), an account of the expeditions to Antarctica by the explorer who seemed obsessed by the South Pole. The series begins with the background to why there was so much antagonism between Shackleton and his great rival, Robert Falcon Scott. Filmed in the harsh, snowy, wastelands of East Greenland, the drama captures the harsh realities of early exploration with Shackleton being blamed by Scott for the comparative failure of the 1902 British National Antarctic Expedition because of frail health. This antipathy deepens later on when Shackleton decides to mount an expedition of his own to Antarctica much to Scott's chagrin as he regarded the area as his own personal fiefdom for exploration. David Schofield plays the down-

CHOICE
earth egotist, Shackleton with Neil Stacy as the aloof, aloof, Scott.
The work behind putting on an opera is the subject of a new six-part series STAGING AN OPERA (Channel 4 8.30pm) Producing Beethoven's Fidelio for Kent Opera is Jonathan Miller in possibly his last production following his announcement that he intends to resume his medical career. This week Norman Fleet, the artistic director, explains his role as well as the history of the company. An entertaining format that should appeal to lovers of opera and the non-committed alike.
The most persuasive interview series for many a moon returns the accolade of a quick repeat beginning tonight. IN THE

PSYCHIATRIST'S CHAIR (Radio 4 8.45pm) is a personal triumph for Dr Anthony Cleary whose persuasive probing elicited hitherto unknown depths of feeling from his interviewees. None more so than tonight's participant, the controversial historian David Irving who talks about himself and those people and events that were a major influence in both his private and professional life.
Robert Lindsay, that versatile actor last seen on television as Edmund in Oliver's King Lear and before that as the Tooting freedom fighter in Citizen Smith, stars with Paul Coombs in the neat little comedy series ALBERT AND ME (Radio 2 10.05 pm) about a single, unemployed man with a baby. An unlikely mixture for laughs but scriptwriter Jim Eldridge has managed to make the combination very witty.

ENGLAND: VHF with above except 1.55-2.00pm Weather: Travel. 1.55-2.00pm Listening Corner. 11.00 Study on 4: Get By in Greek. 11.30-12.10 Open University. 12.30 Home Science of Man. 11.50 The Urban Demographer.
Radio 3
6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Your Midweek Choice: Johann Stamitz, S. S. Wesley, Schubert, Hindemith.
8.00 News.
8.05 Your Midweek Choice (continued): Leigh Coates, Saint-Saens, Sibelius.
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composers: The Spanish Golden Age, Luis Milan, Diego Ortiz, Maluco Flecha the elder, Alonso Lobo, Juan Esquivel, Rodrigo Cabaletti.
10.00 News.
10.05 The Last of the Sound with Charles Chester. 8.00 The Organists Entertain with Nigel Ogden. 8.30 Hubert Gregg says Thanks for the Memory. 8.57 Sponza. 9.00 News. 9.05 Adrian John with The Early Show. 9.00 Steve Wright. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Mike Smith. 11.00 Brian Bates. 11.30 Radio 1 Matinee. 8.00 David Skinner. 10.00 John Peel.
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